



5

WORLDS COLLIDE ACT ONE



ICON VS. HARDWARE



IF THEY CAN'T WORK TOGETHER
THE MILESTONE UNIVERSE
WILL FALL!

HUDLIN | CHILLS | COWAN
FLORES MONTAÑEZ
STANISCI | SOTOMAYOR



**BATWOMAN AND LUKE FOX UNCOVER THE DEEPEST,
DARKEST SECRETS OF THE MULTIVERSE!**

OUTSIDERS

© & TM DC.

Written by
**JACKSON LANZING
AND COLLIN KELLY**

Art by
ROBERT CAREY

Variant cover by **CHRISTIAN WARD**



**A NEW
ONGOING SERIES**

NOVEMBER

CJW

SWITZERLAND.

Hardware went and broke time and it took every hero in Dakota City to clean it up.

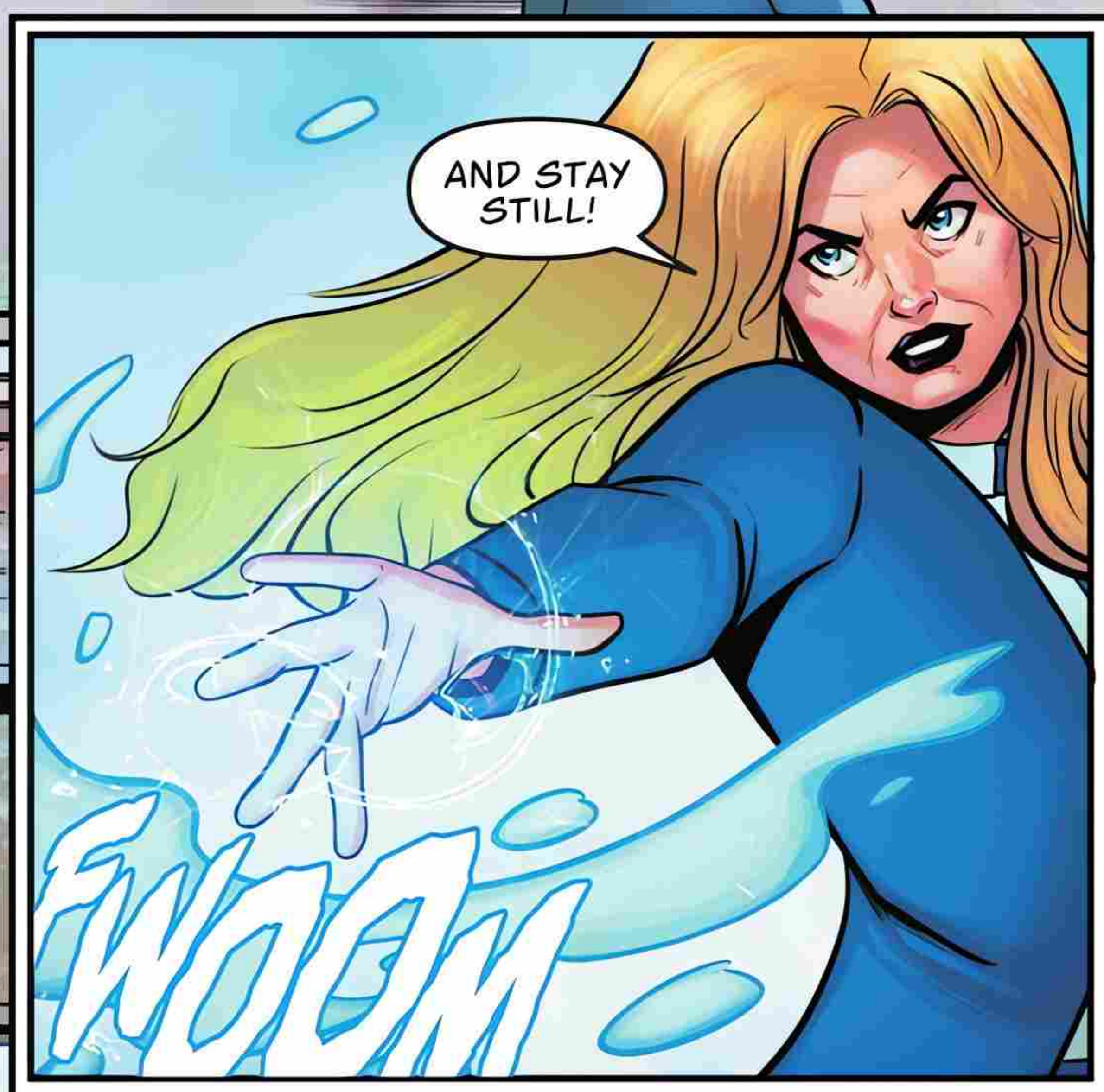
Dinosaurs, cavemen, Nazis--it was a whole mess.

THESE SUPER-KARENS ARE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT!

And what does Icon do to thank me for helping out? He sends my #@& back to my crappy boarding school in the Swiss Alps.

And of course, as soon as I get here, all these nasty girls, their mothers, and the creepy-yet-sexy immortal magical headmaster want smoke!

THAT'S NOT MY NAME!

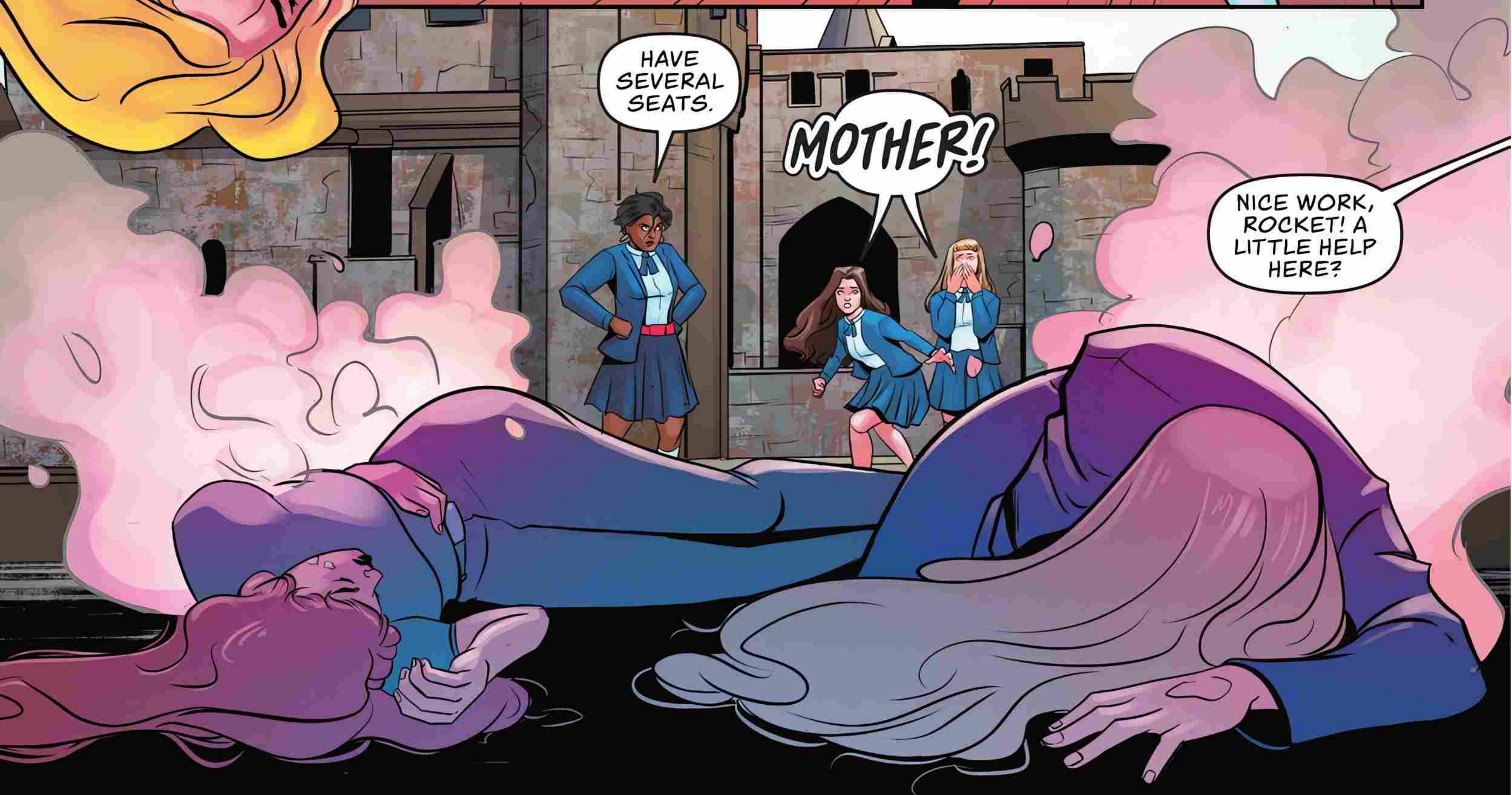


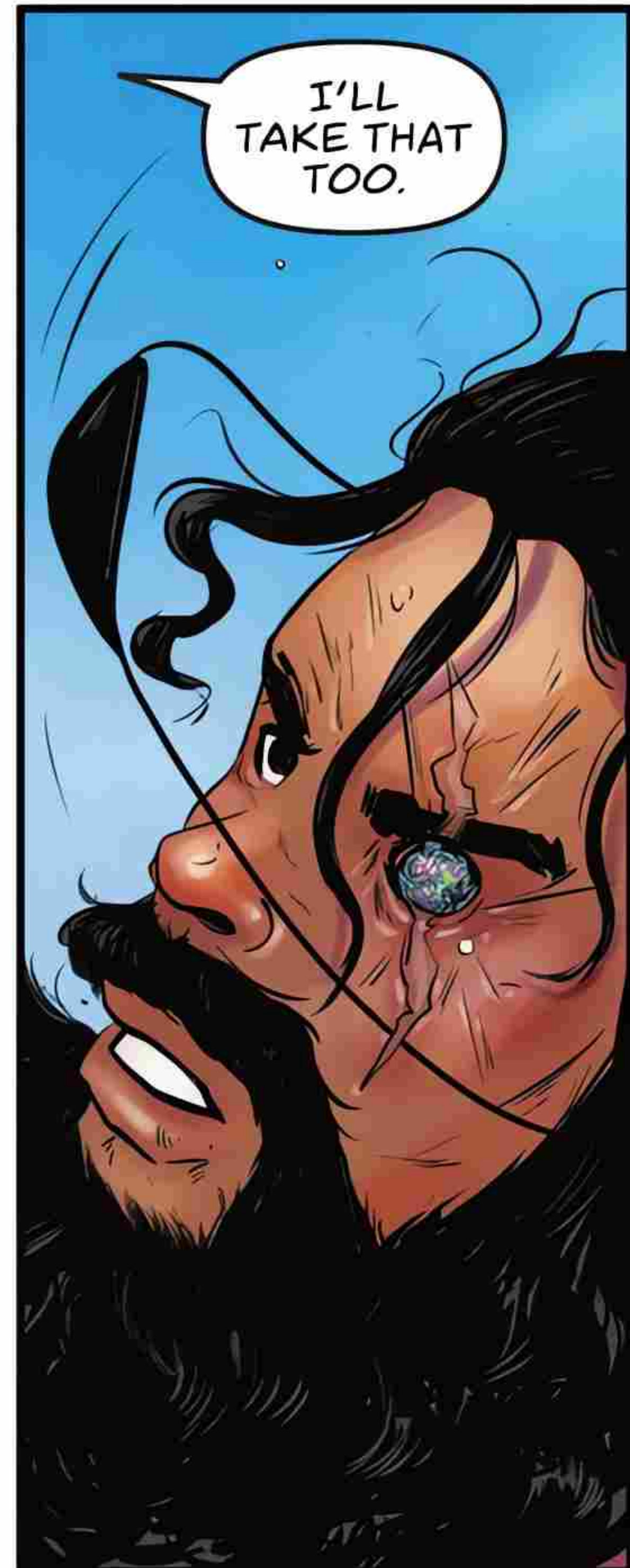


NICE TRY, BUT ALL Y'ALL DID IS PUT ME ONTO SOME NEW \$%&#.

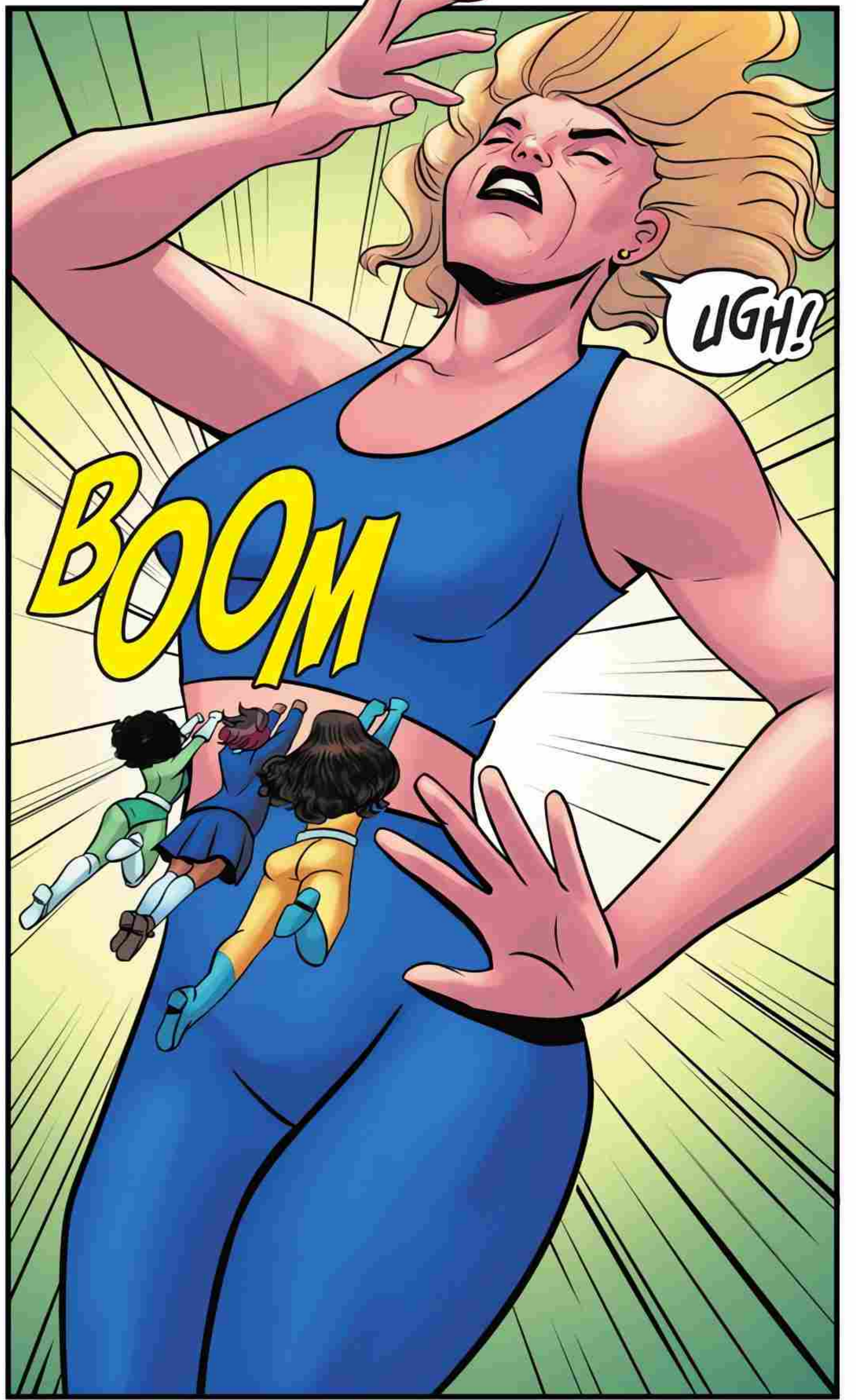
WHEN I'M HIT WITH AN ELEMENTAL ATTACK...LOOKS LIKE I CAN MAKE IT MY OWN, TOO.

Damn, it feels good not having Icon stop me from cursing!











NOW THAT
THAT'S SETTLED...
HAVE YOU HAD
ENOUGH TIME TO
THINK ABOUT WHAT
WE ASKED YOU,
ROCKET?

WILL
YOU JOIN
THE LOVE
CORPS?

WE CAN
TAKE THIS SCHOOL
OVER AND MAKE IT OUR
NEW HEADQUARTERS.
KICK ALL THE *BAD APPLES*
OUT, USE IT TO TEACH AND
TRAIN YOUNG WOMEN
WHO ARE *DESERVING*
OF BEING THE NEXT
WORLD LEADERS.

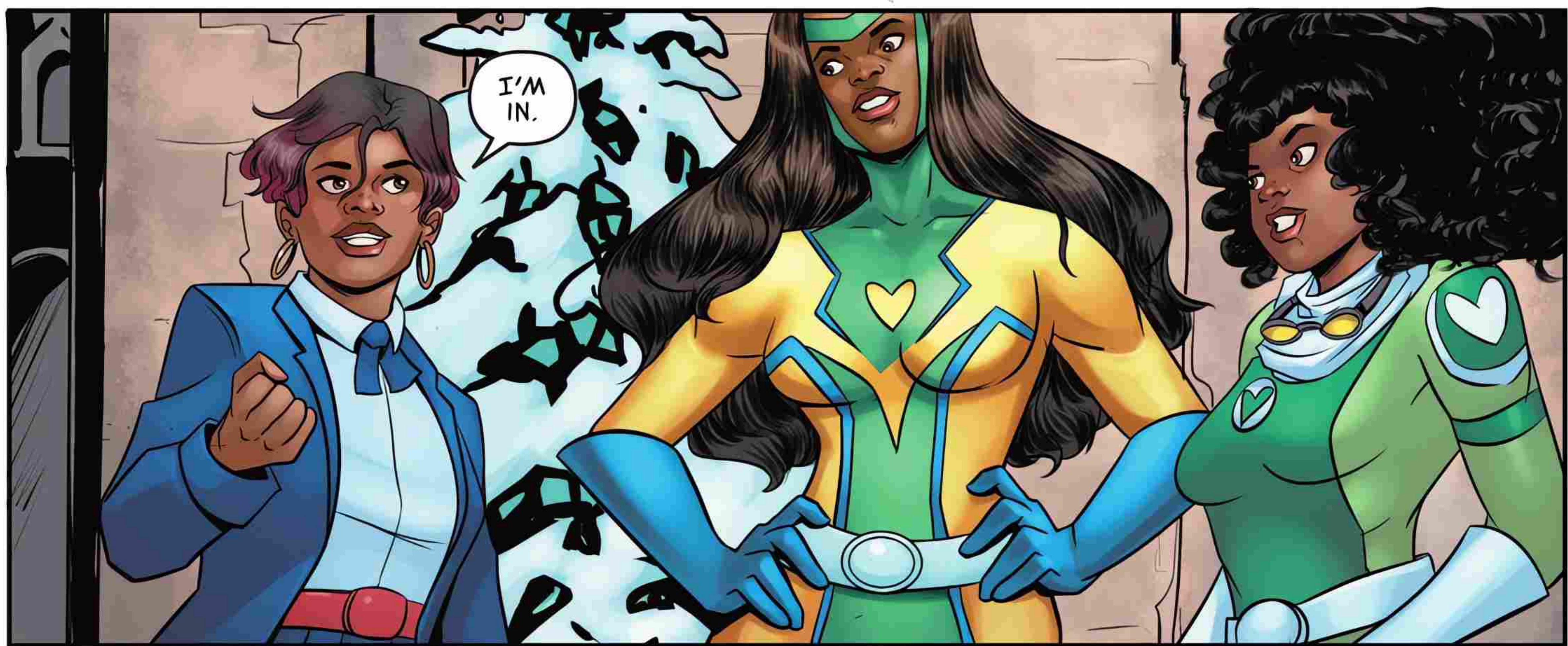
WITH *YOU*
LEADING THE
WAY, AS OUR
SUPERSTAR.



WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?



Am I really
gonna leave
Icon?

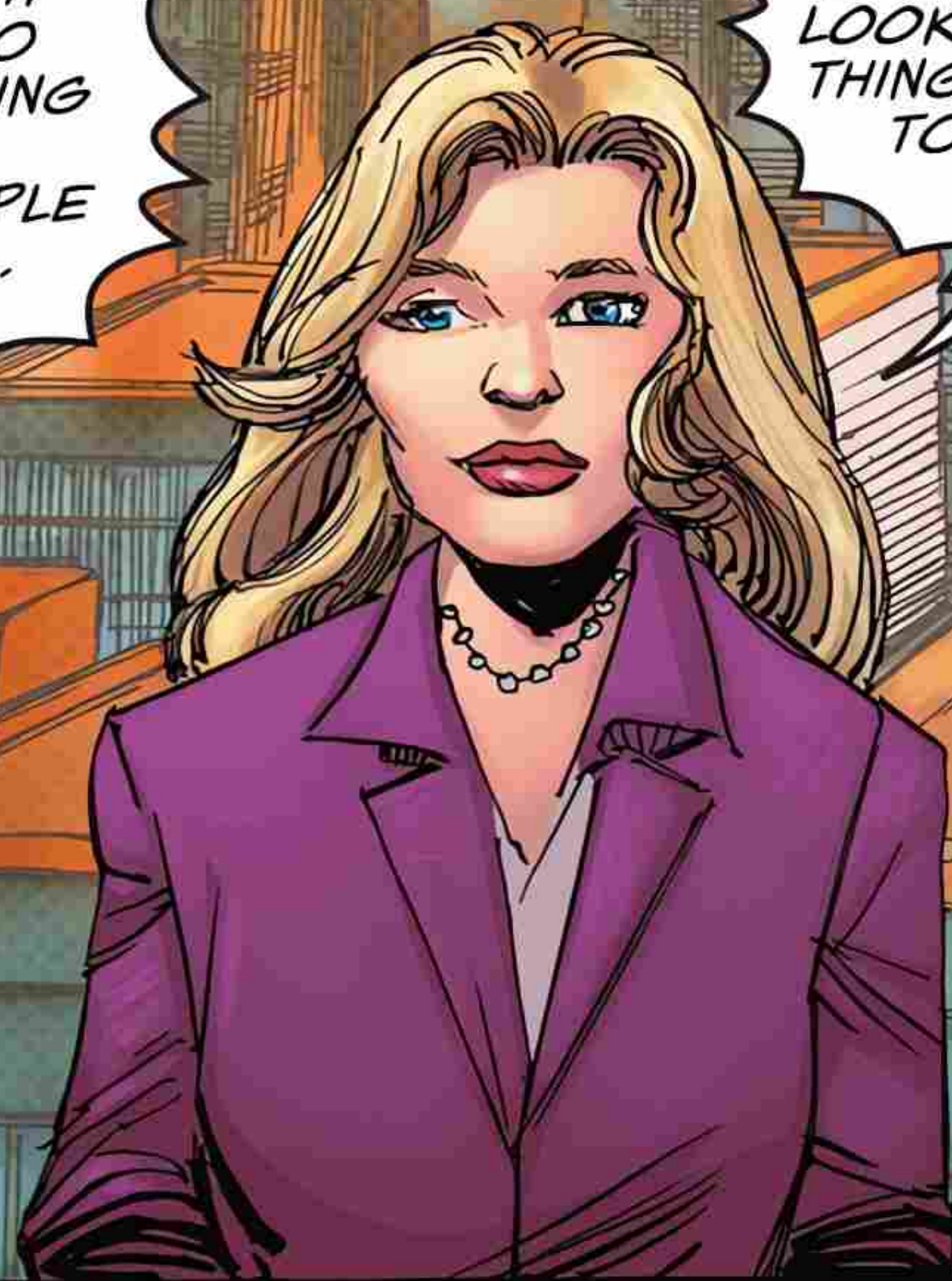


I'M
IN.

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL DAKOTA CITY NEWS. WE START TODAY'S SHOW WITH A VERY TROUBLING STORY.

ONE WE'RE SURE YOU'RE ALREADY WELL AWARE OF, AS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MISS: **CHAOS** REIGNING CITYWIDE DUE TO CREATURES AND PEOPLE SEEMINGLY FROM... THE PAST.

AND AS IF THAT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN WORSE.



THIS... **UNKNOWN ENTITY**...HAS TOLD US HE HAS A MESSAGE FOR US. WE GO TO...IT... LIVE NOW.



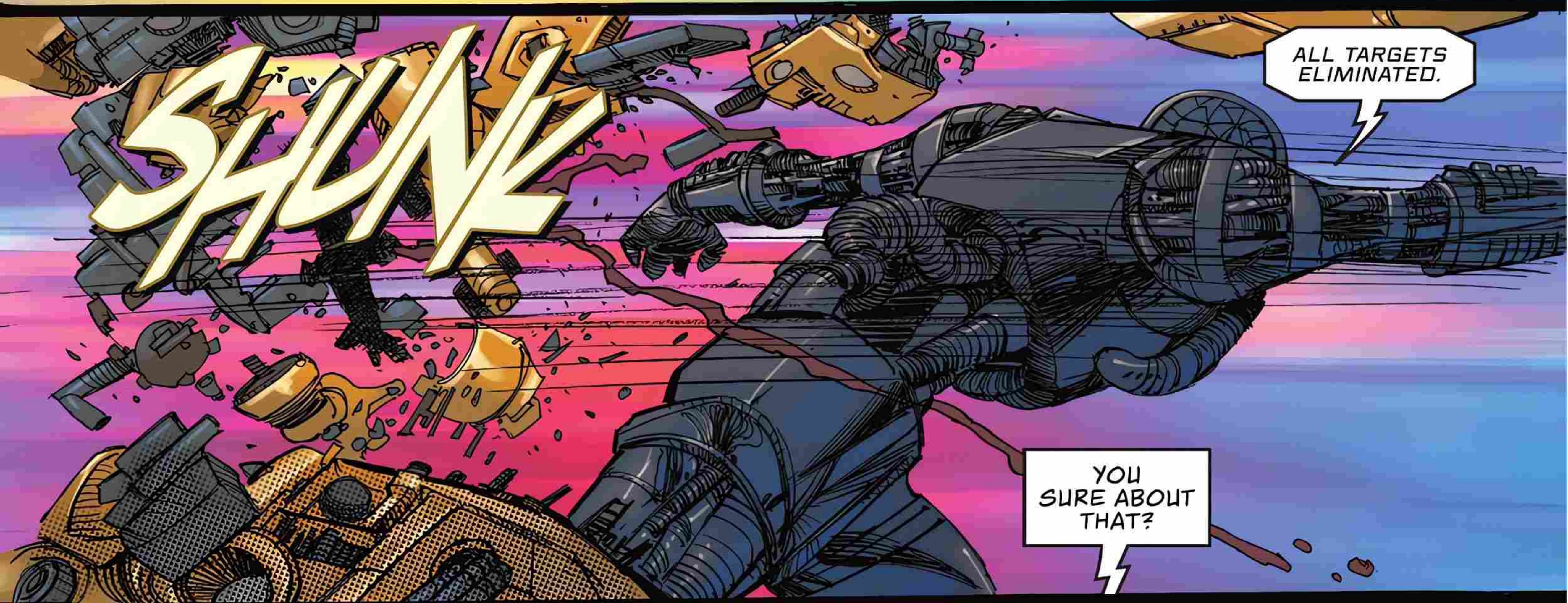
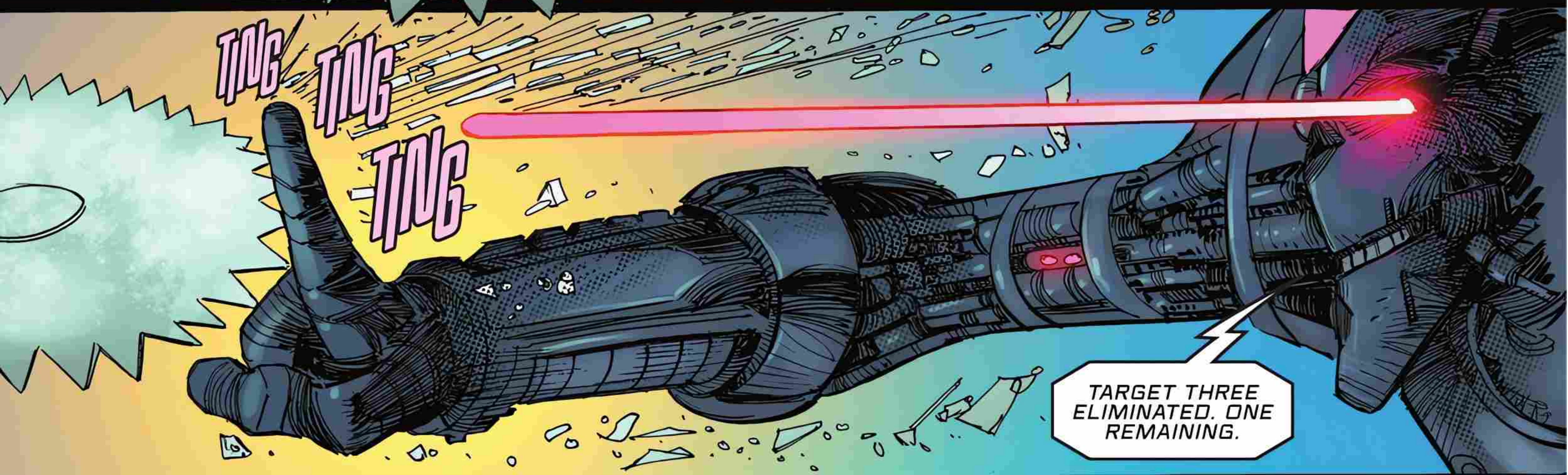
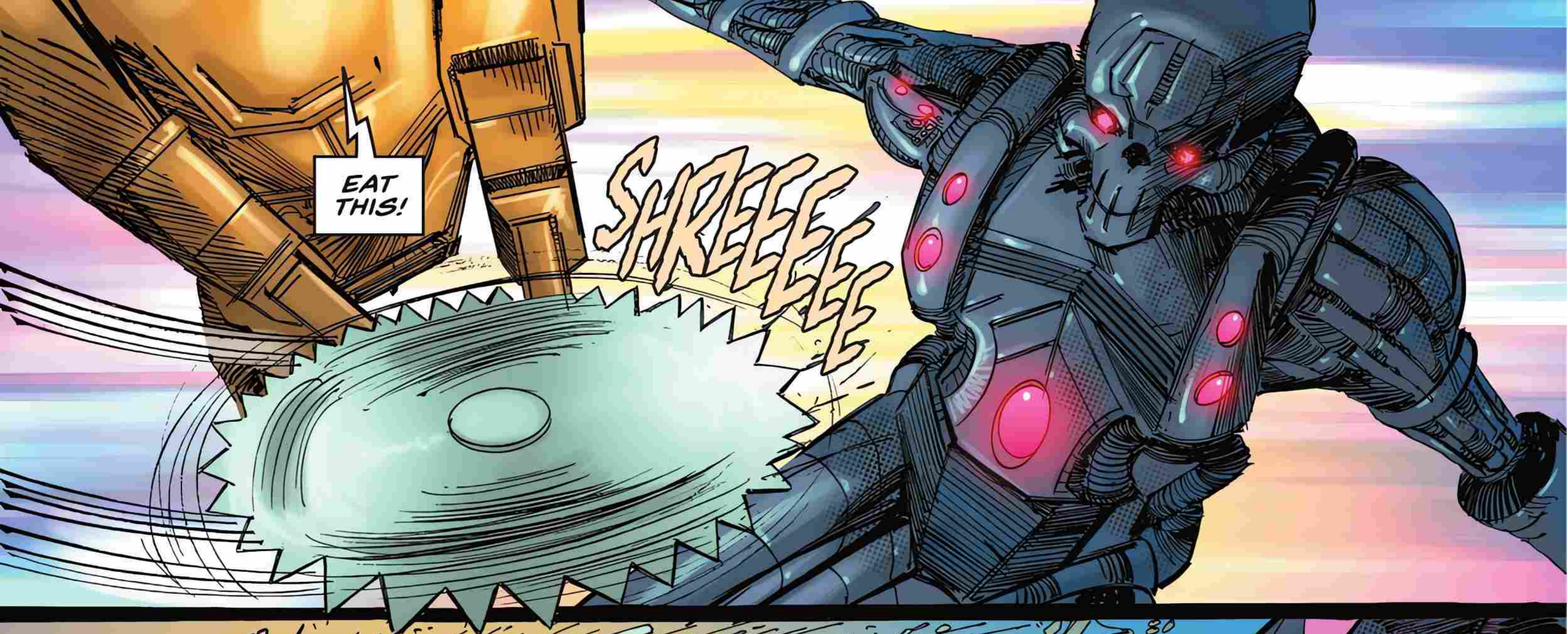
TO THE PEOPLE OF DAKOTA CITY AND THE WORLD AT LARGE. THIS PLANET HAS BEEN MARKED FOR **TERMINATION** BY ORDER OF **BRAINIAC**.



DEATHRAY INITIATED.





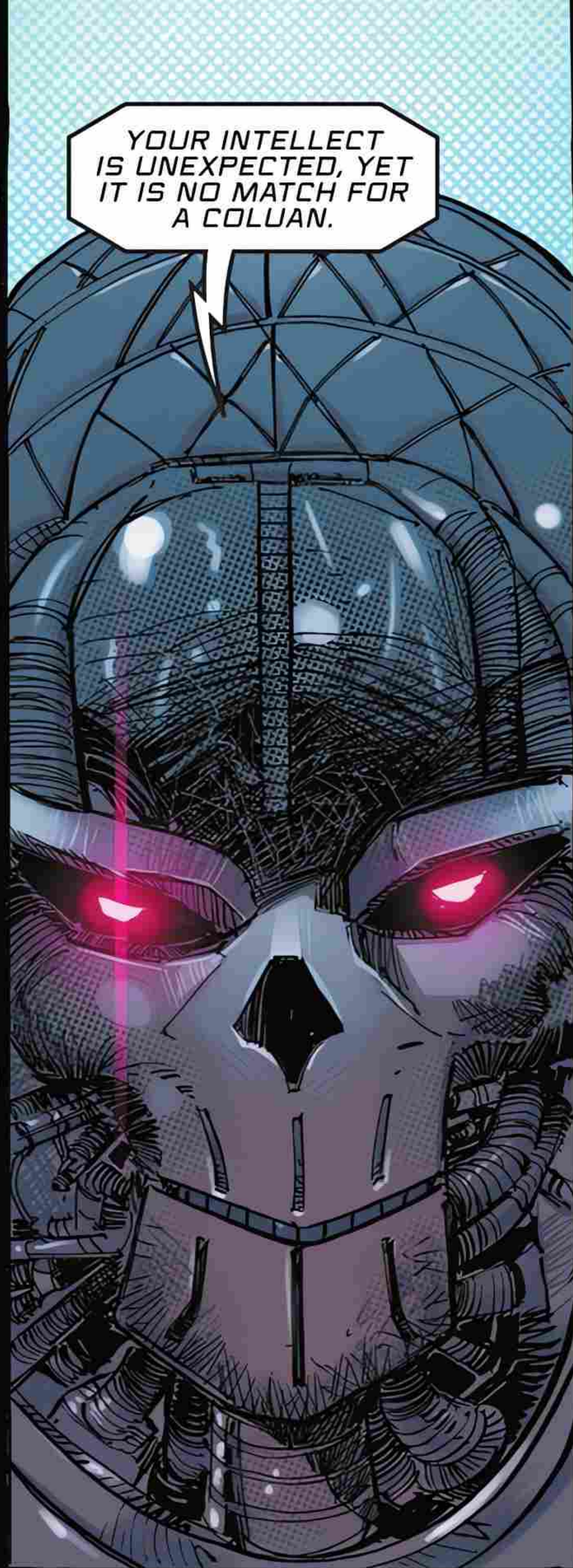




ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE INITIATED.

NOT GONNA WORK. UPGRADES. MADE A FEW TO THE SUIT AFTER SEEING WHAT YOU DID TO HIS JET.

VMM VMM VMM

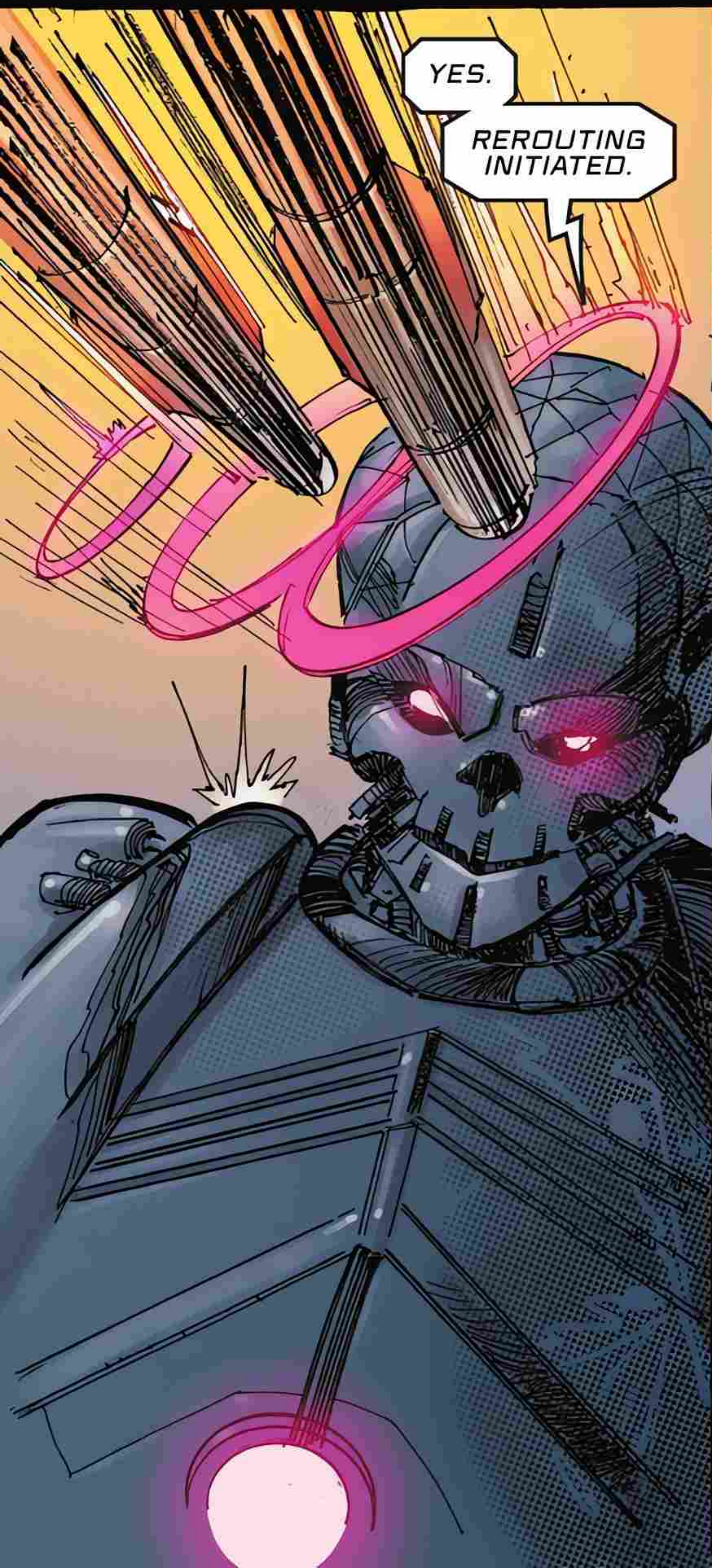


YOUR INTELLECT IS UNEXPECTED, YET IT IS NO MATCH FOR A COLUAN.



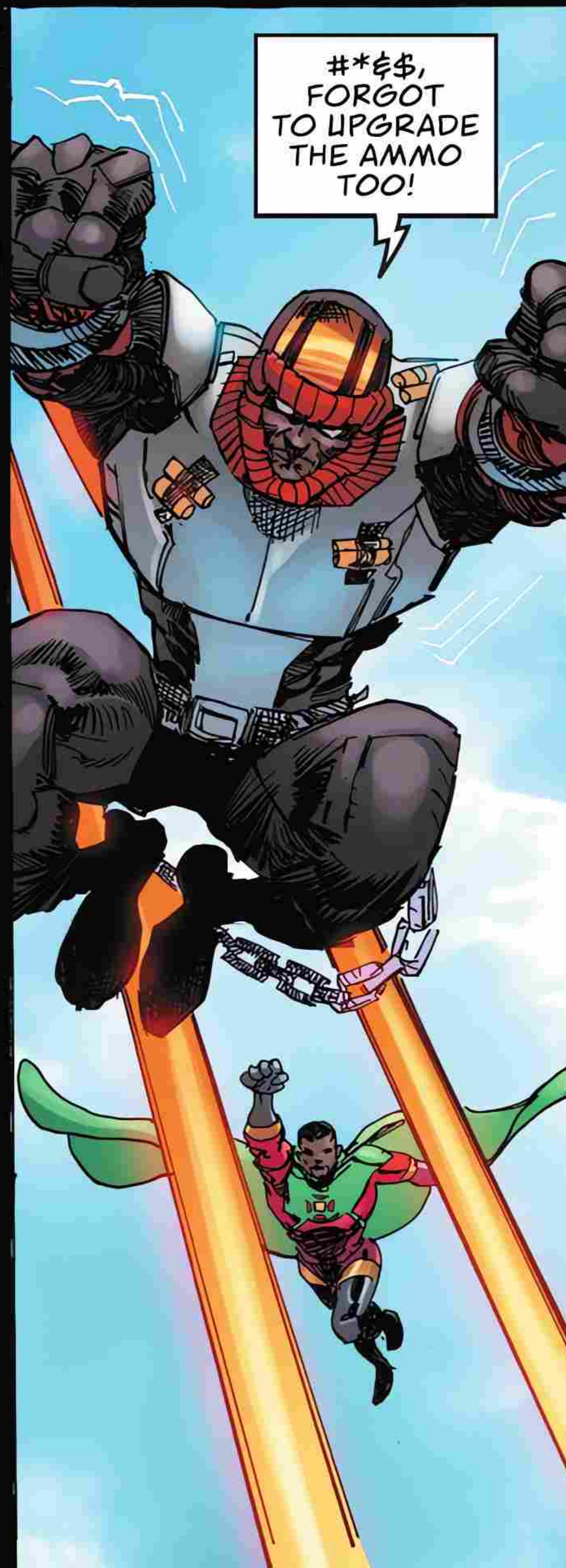
ARE YOU A MATCH FOR THESE?!

THOOM

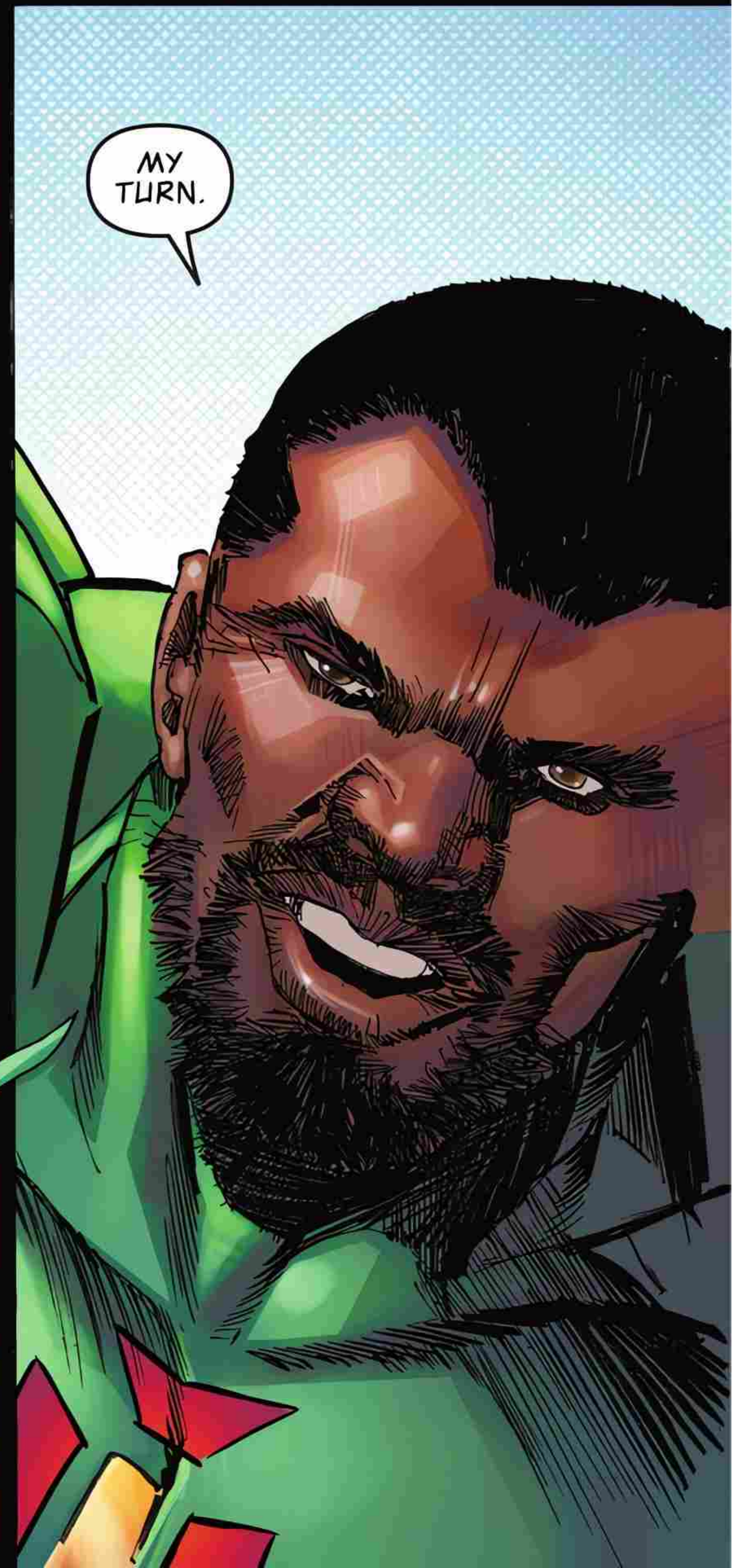


YES.

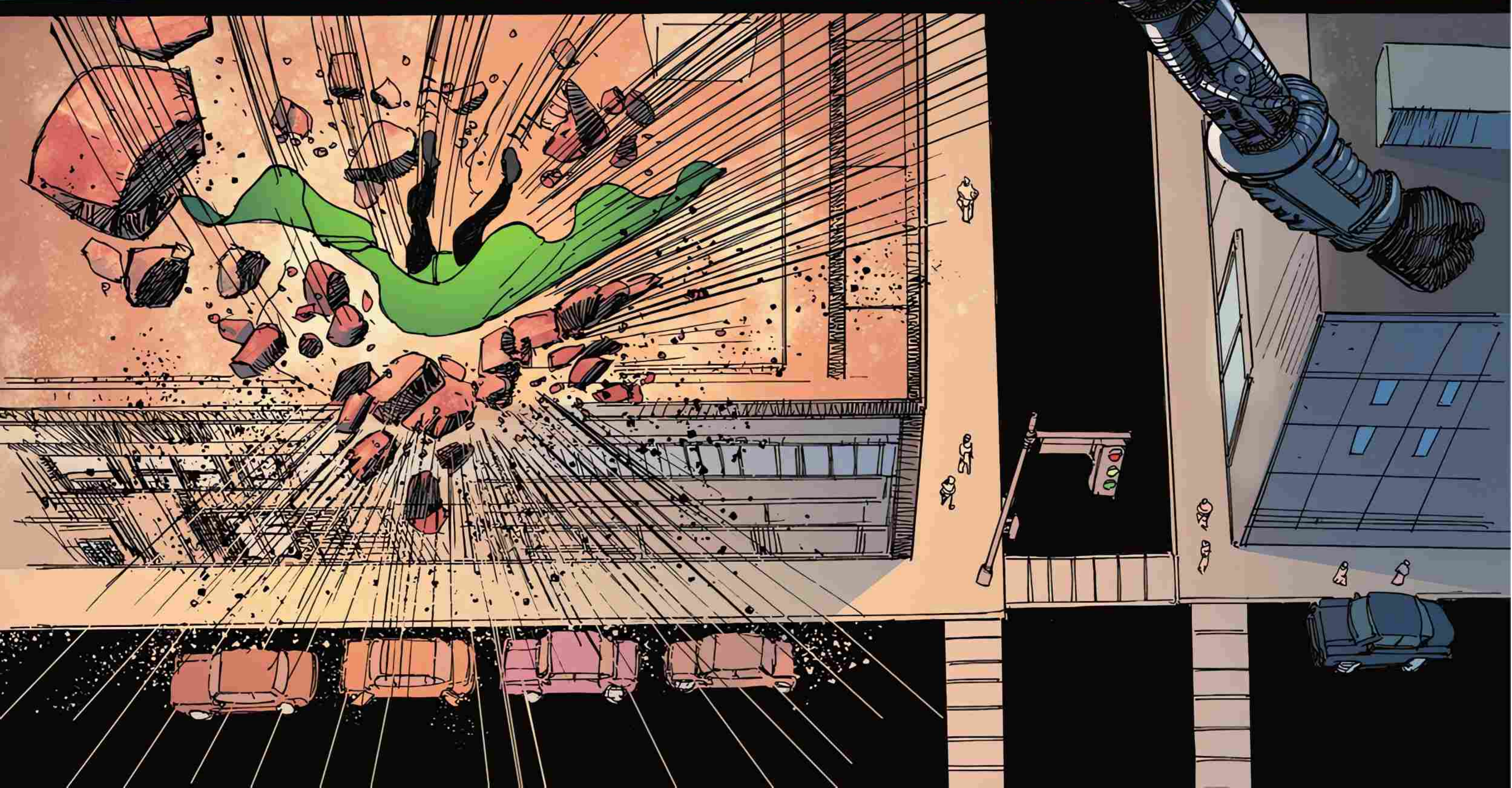
REROUTING INITIATED.

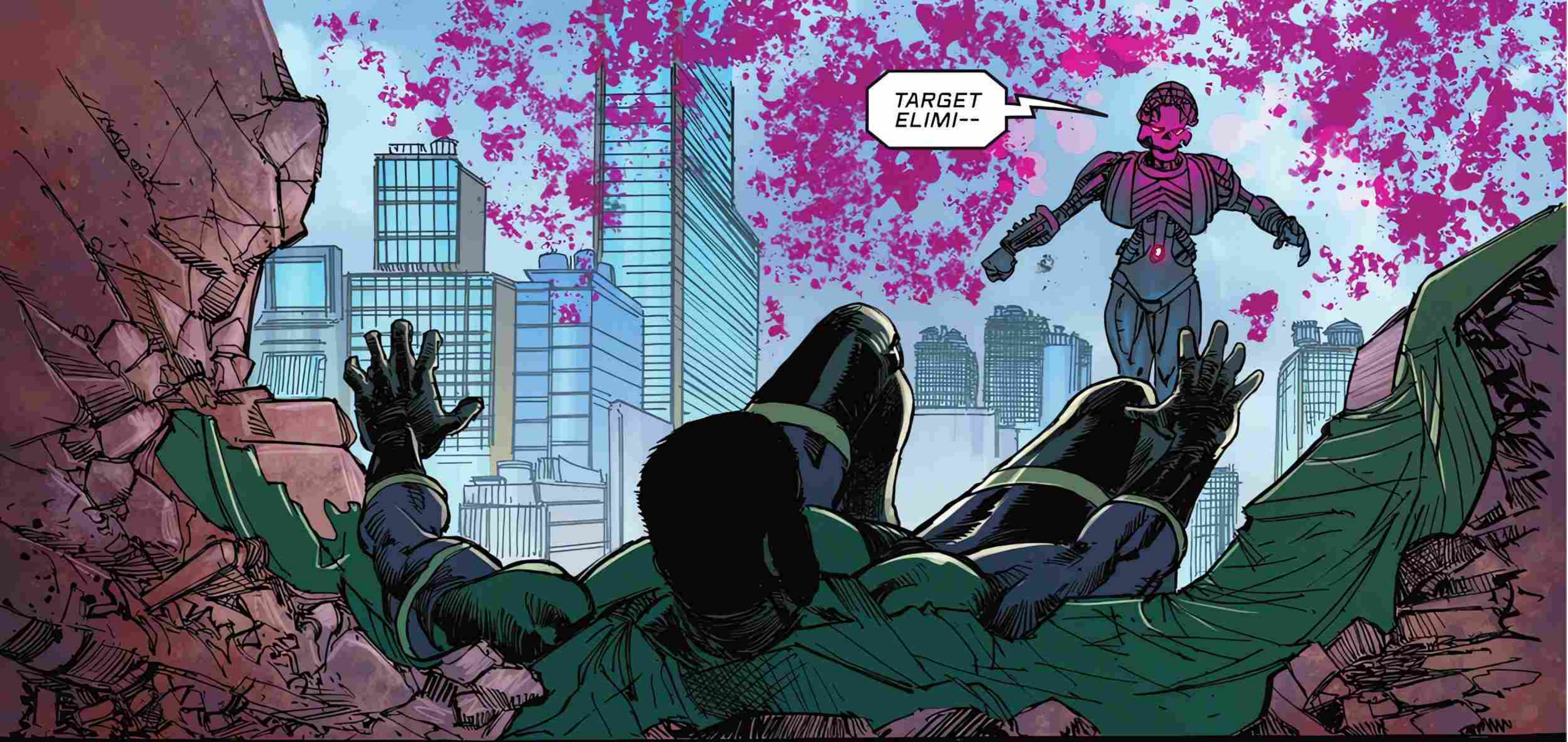


##&\$, FORGOT TO UPGRADE THE AMMO TOO!

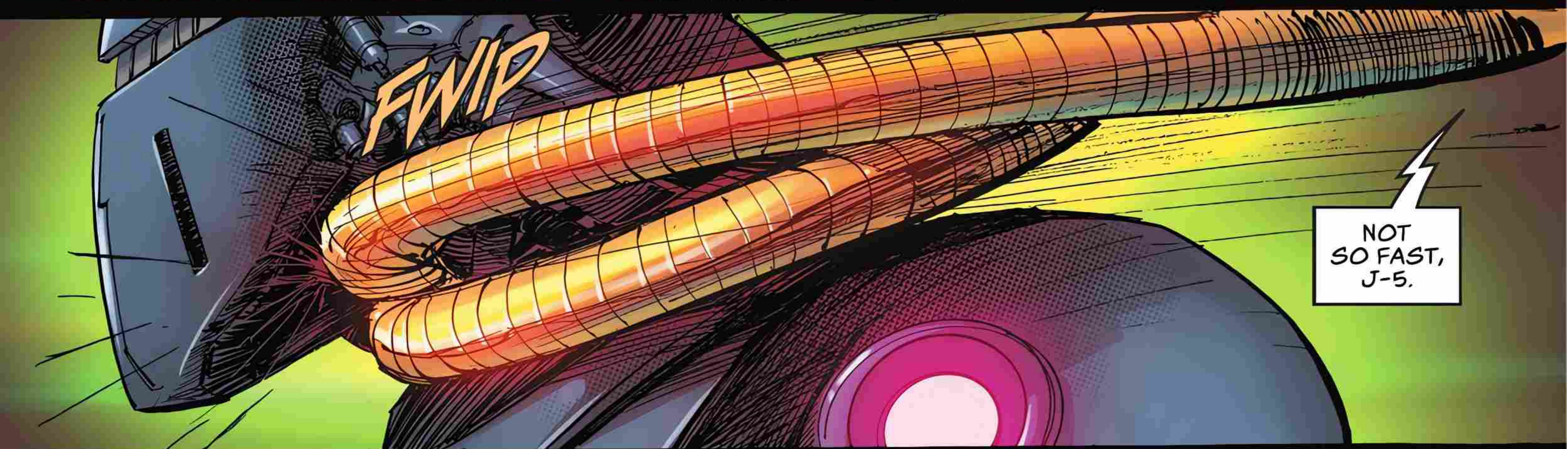


MY TURN.

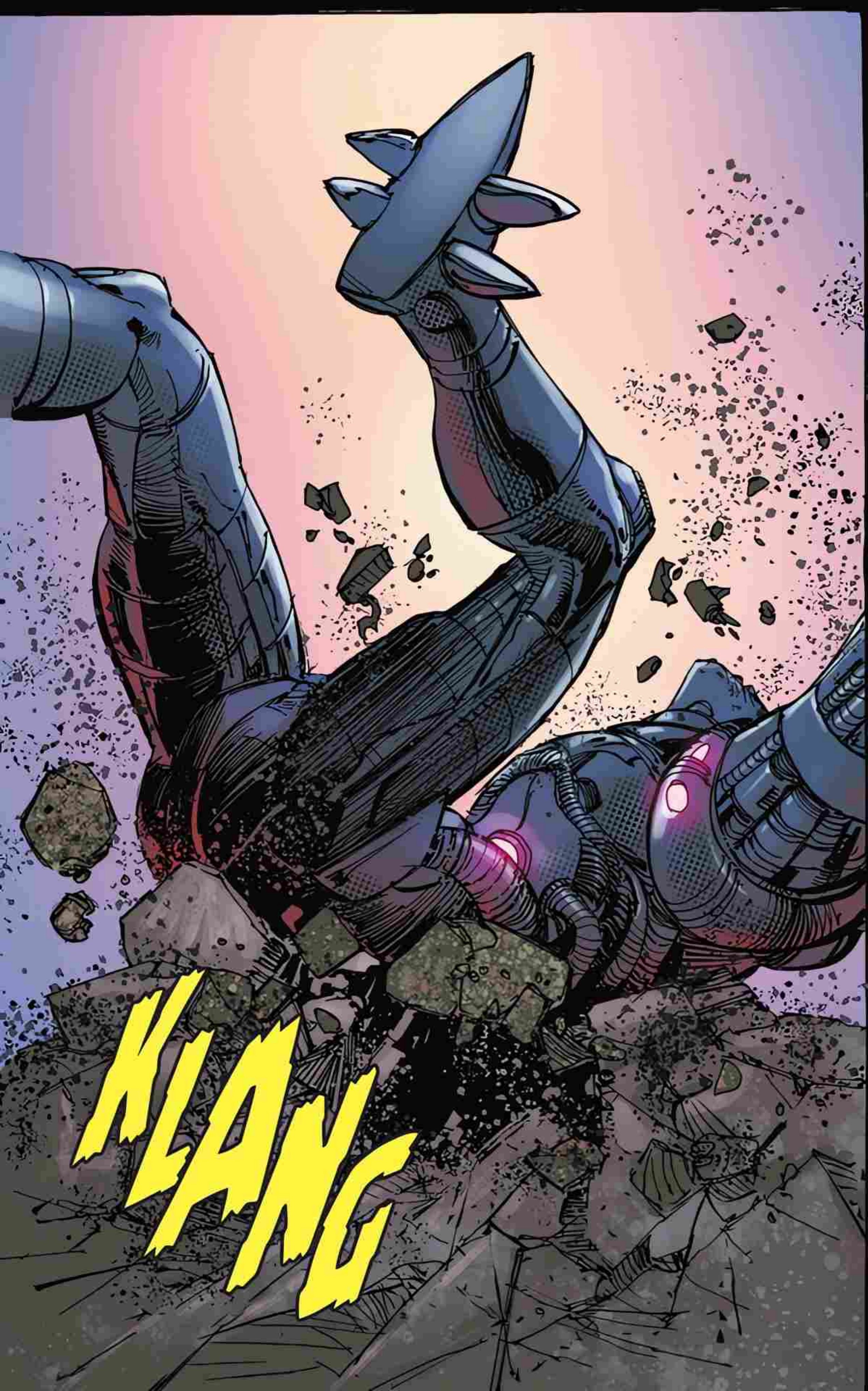




TARGET
ELIMI--



NOT
SO FAST,
J-5.

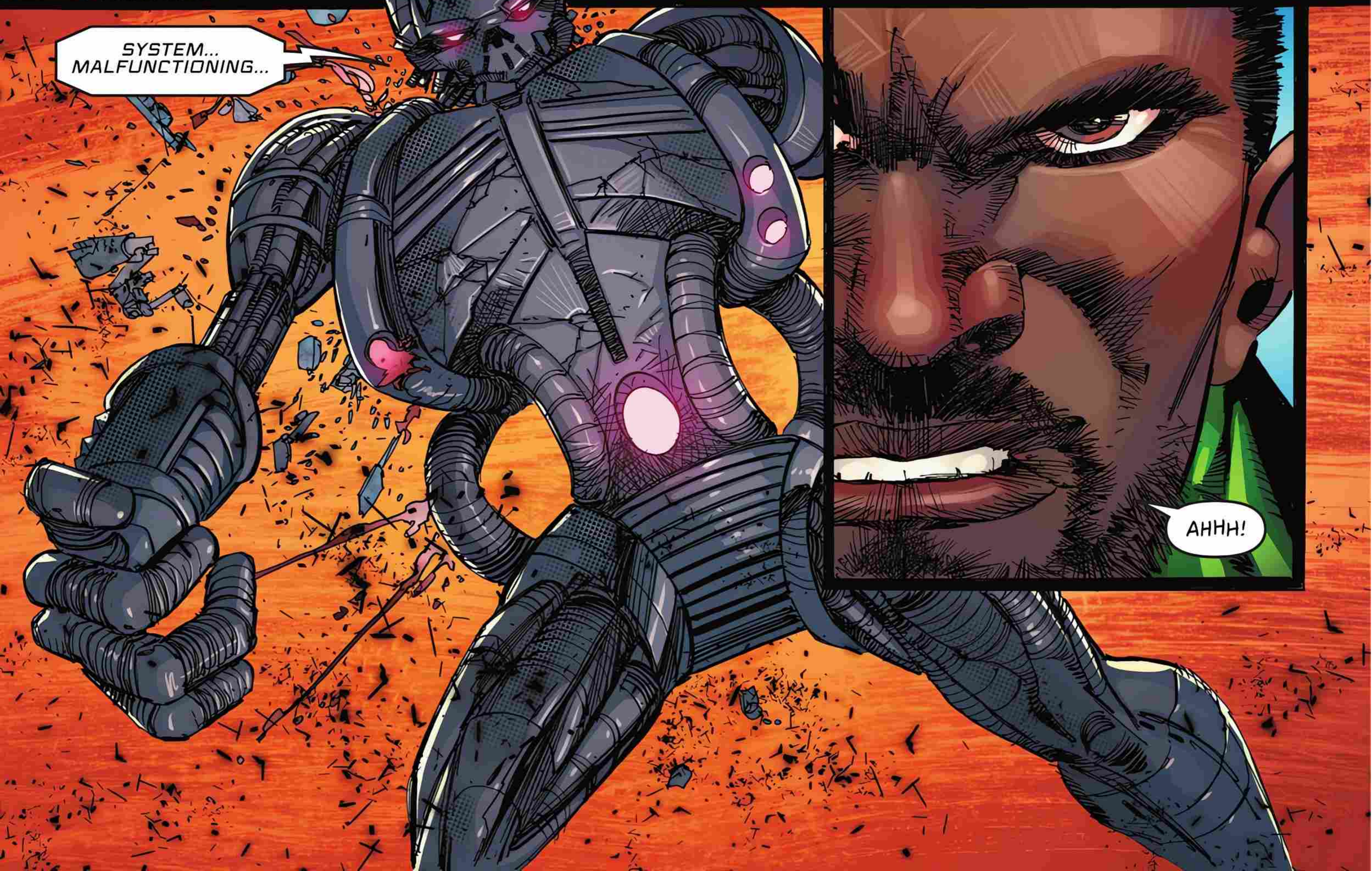
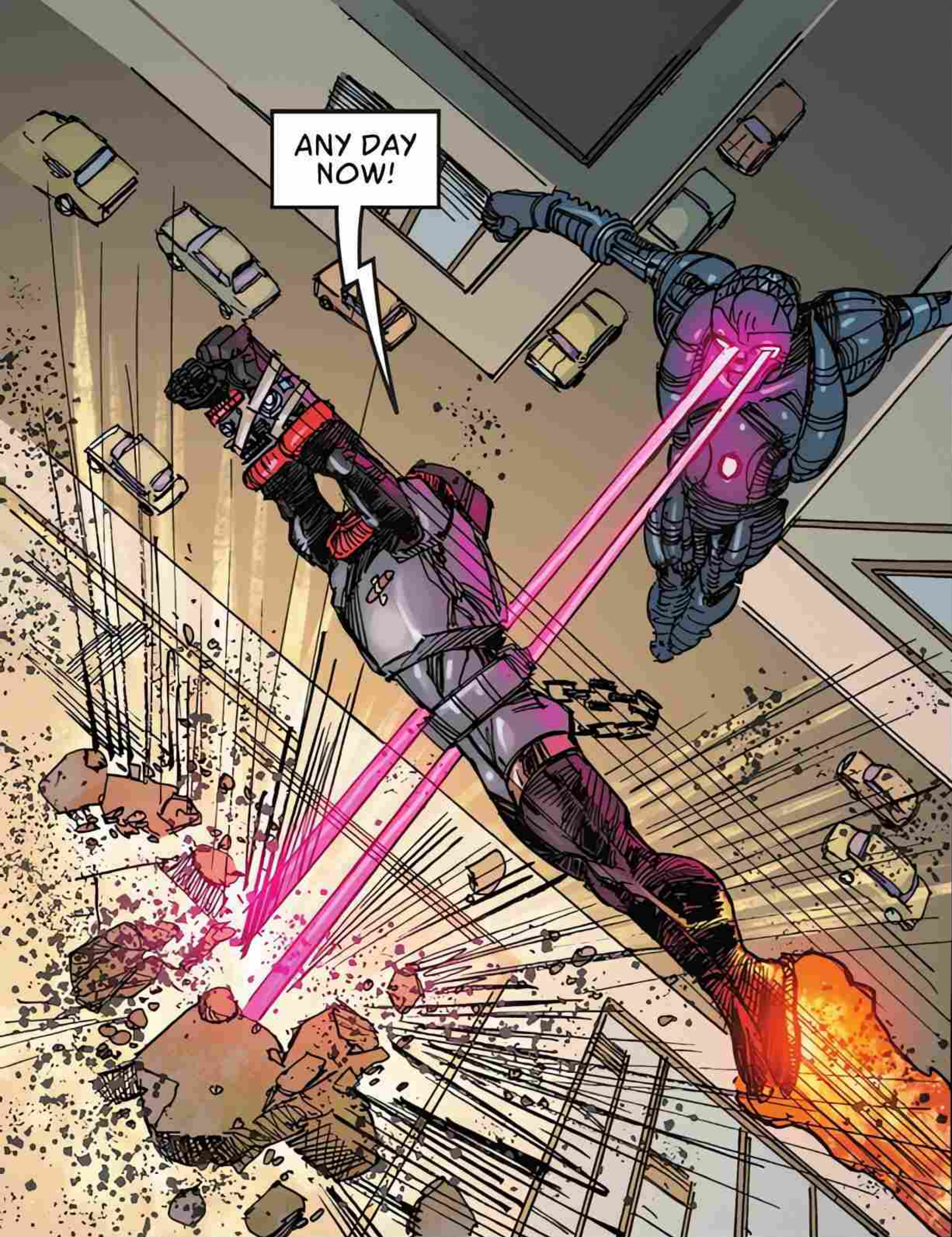


THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S NOTHING
MORE THAN A
ROBOT.

...AND...

AND I
HAVE AN
IDEA.

KEEP IT
DISTRACTED...





SYSTEM...
DOWN...

TONG

BZZT

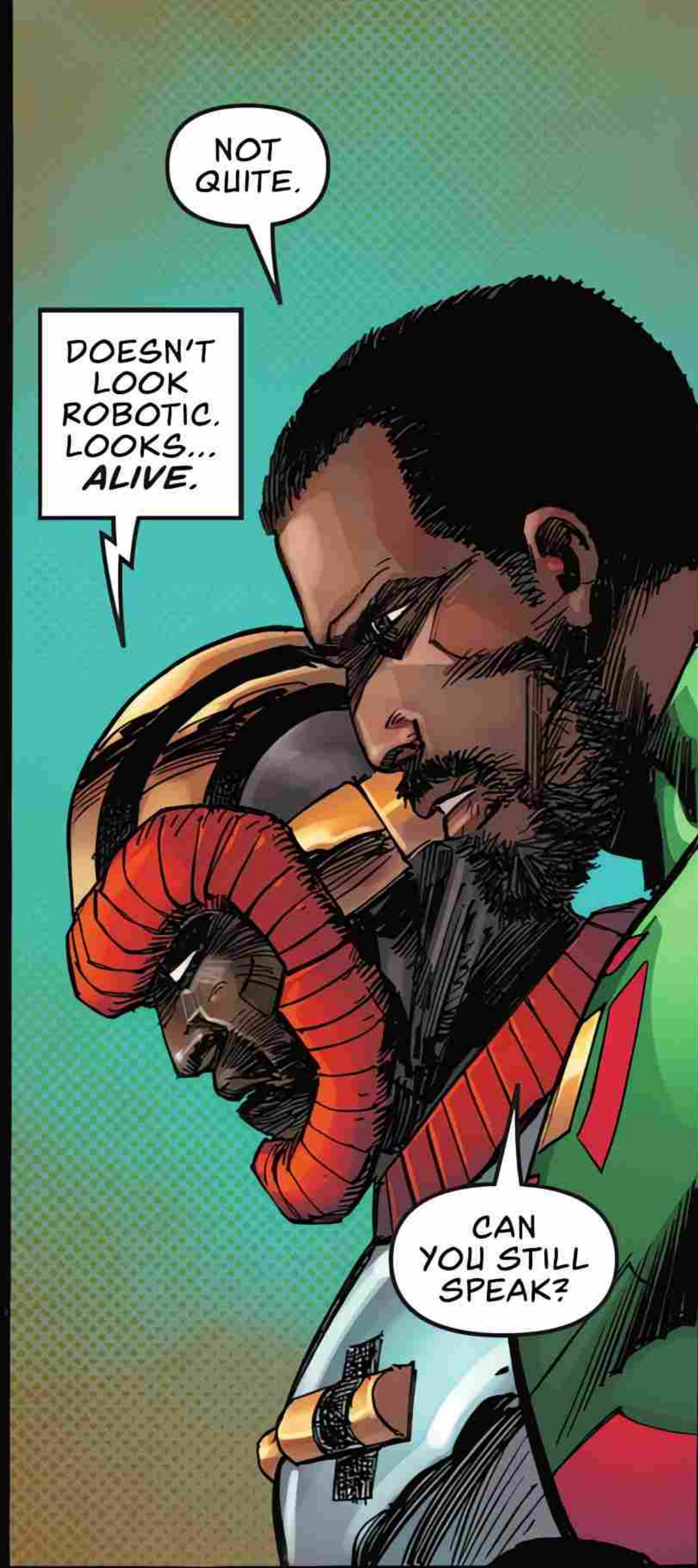
CLANK

KRAKK

CLANG



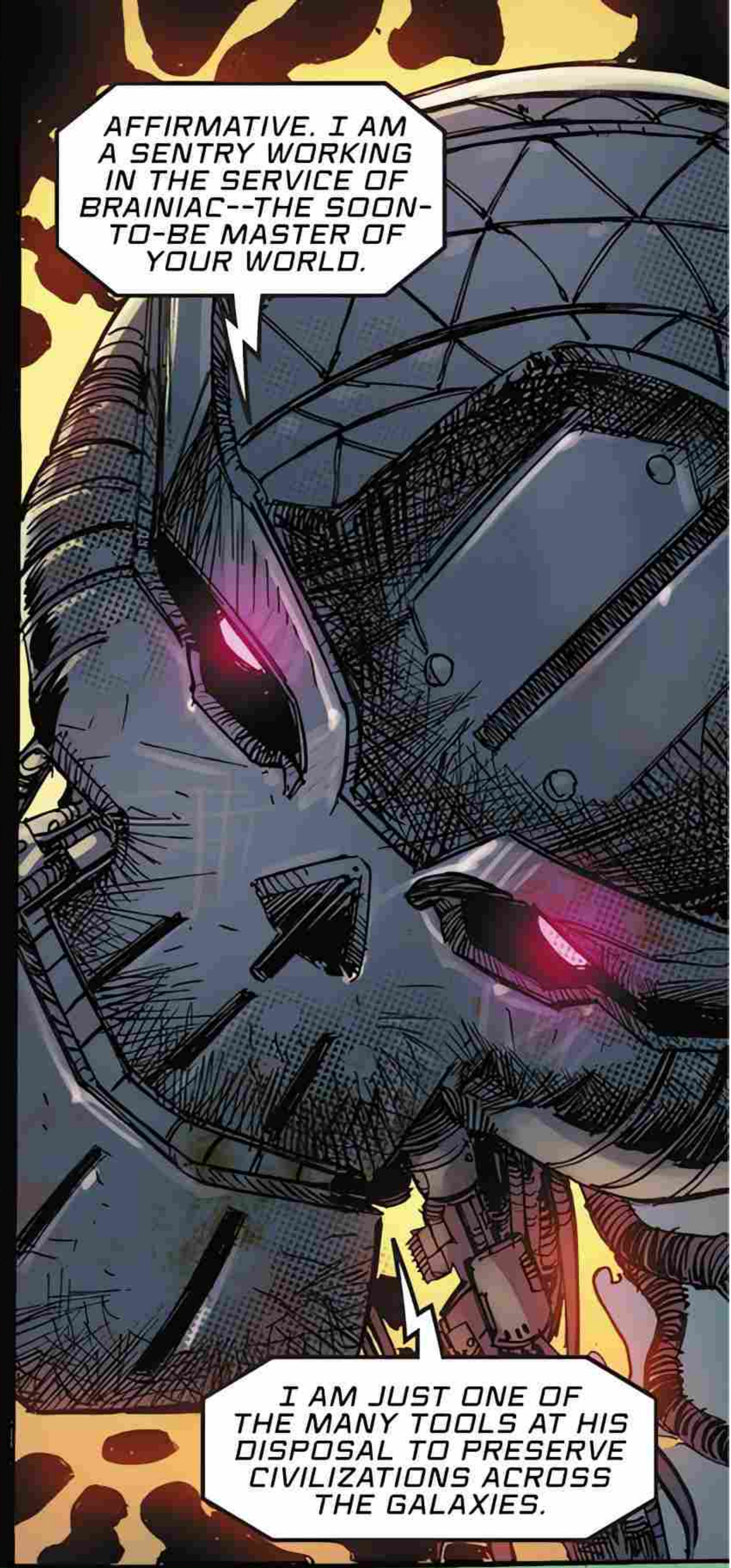
"TARGET ELIMINATED."



DOESN'T LOOK ROBOTIC. LOOKS... ALIVE.

NOT QUITE.

CAN YOU STILL SPEAK?



AFFIRMATIVE. I AM A SENTRY WORKING IN THE SERVICE OF BRAINIAC--THE SOON-TO-BE MASTER OF YOUR WORLD.

I AM JUST ONE OF THE MANY TOOLS AT HIS DISPOSAL TO PRESERVE CIVILIZATIONS ACROSS THE GALAXIES.



WHERE IS HE?

AND WHEN SHOULD WE EXPECT HIS ARRIVAL? I WANNA ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET...

YOU NEED NOT KNOW. ALL YOU NEED DO IS PREPARE FOR SUBMISSION.



WELL, WE HAVE A MESSAGE FOR HIM TOO...



KERUNCH



TOLD YOU WE'D WIN.

THAT WAS JUST THE FLUNKY.

AND I THOUGHT I WAS PESSIMISTIC...

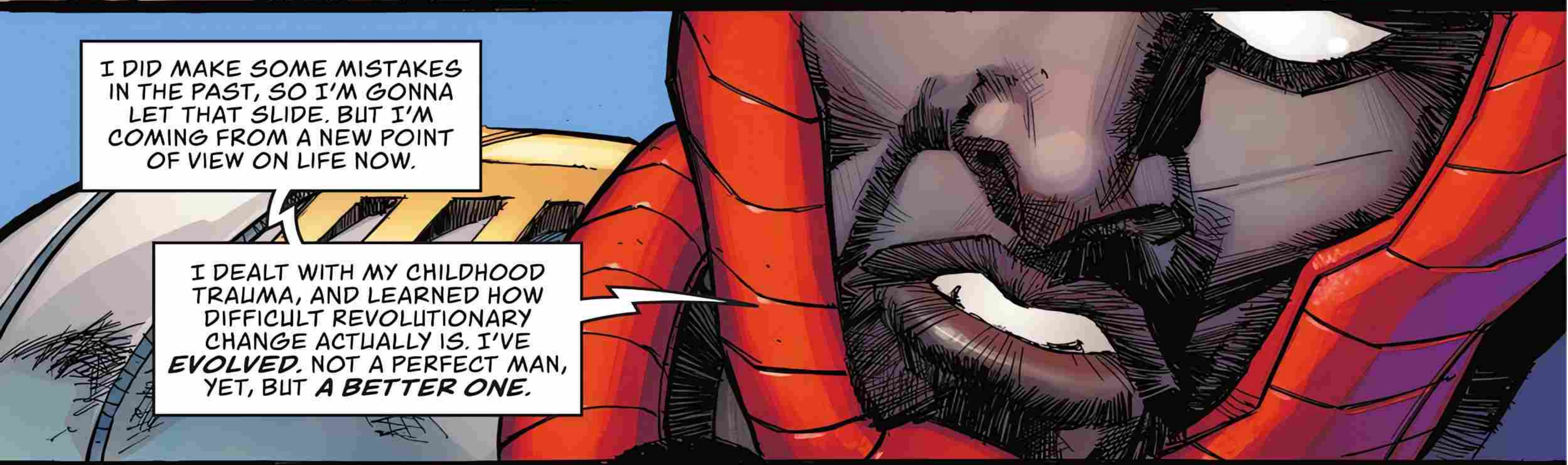
IT'S BEEN REAL.

WAIT. WE NEED TO TALK.

ANOTHER TIME. GOT SOME FAMILY ISSUES TO WORK OUT. LIKE FINDING A **BROTHER** I NEVER KNEW I HAD. AFTER THAT, NEW IDEAS TO IMPLEMENT. FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. YOU HAVE THE **WORST** IDEAS.

IDEAS SO BAD...I THINK YOU SHOULD BE STRIPPED OF THIS SUIT AND ANY OTHER TECHNOLOGY YOU MAY HAVE ACCESS TO.



I DID MAKE SOME MISTAKES IN THE PAST, SO I'M GONNA LET THAT SLIDE. BUT I'M COMING FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW ON LIFE NOW.

I DEALT WITH MY CHILDHOOD TRAUMA, AND LEARNED HOW DIFFICULT REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE ACTUALLY IS. I'VE **EVOLVED**. NOT A PERFECT MAN, YET, BUT A **BETTER ONE**.

BE THAT AS IT MAY...YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE TO DO RIGHT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, **HARDWARE**.

YOU WON'T GET A SECOND ONE...



EVEN IF YOU TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME, I'D JUST REBUILD IT FROM THE GROUND UP. PUT CURTIS METCALF ANYWHERE ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH, I'LL TRIPLE MY WORTH.

THE ONLY WAY *YOU* CAN TRULY STOP *ME* FROM BEING HARDWARE...IS TO KILL ME.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO THAT? 'CAUSE IT WON'T BE EASY, CONSIDERING I LEARNED WHAT YOUR *WEAKNESS* IS IN AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE...

...AND I'M PREPARED TO USE IT IF I HAVE TO.

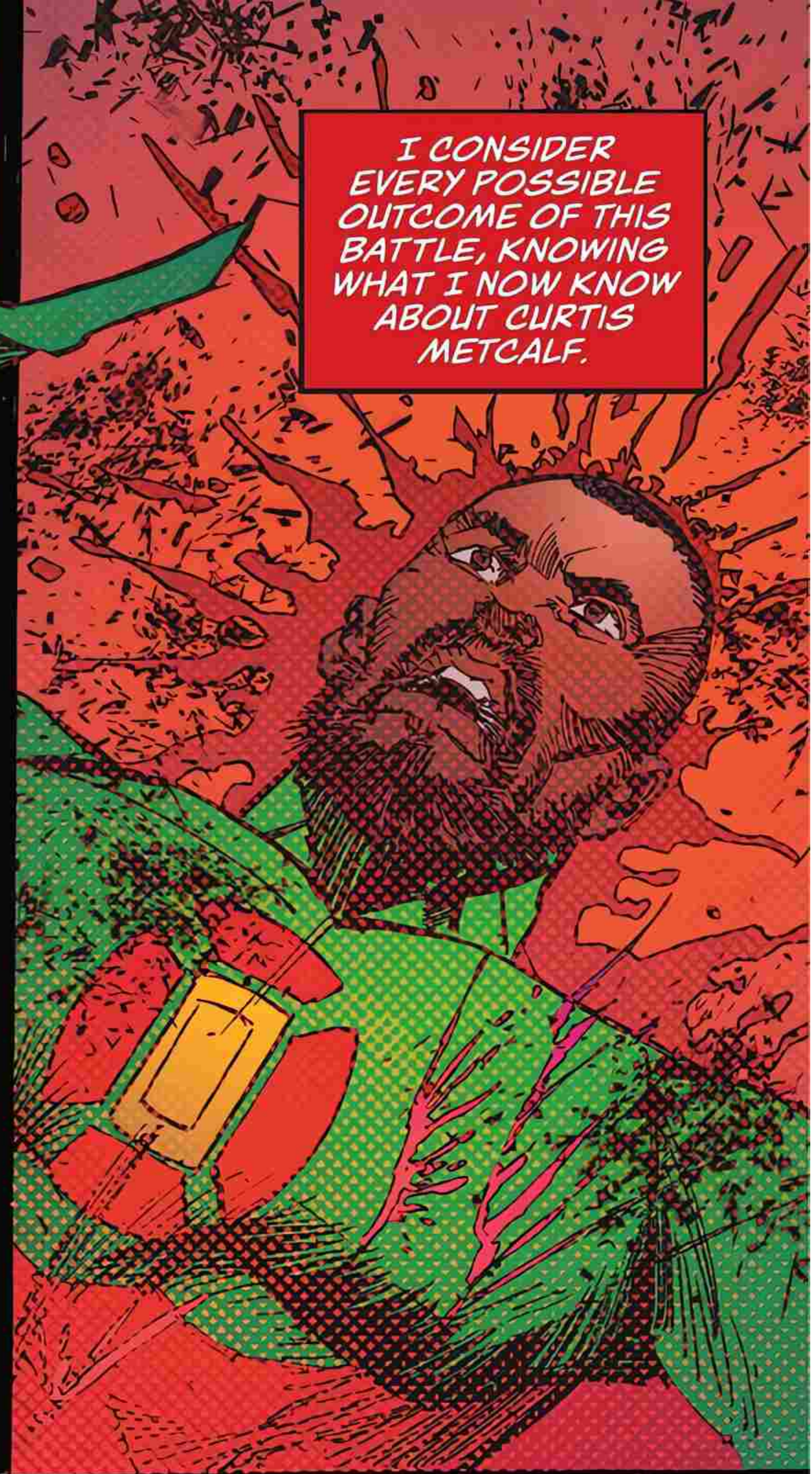




I RUN THE ANGLES---
JUST AS I KNOW HE HAS.



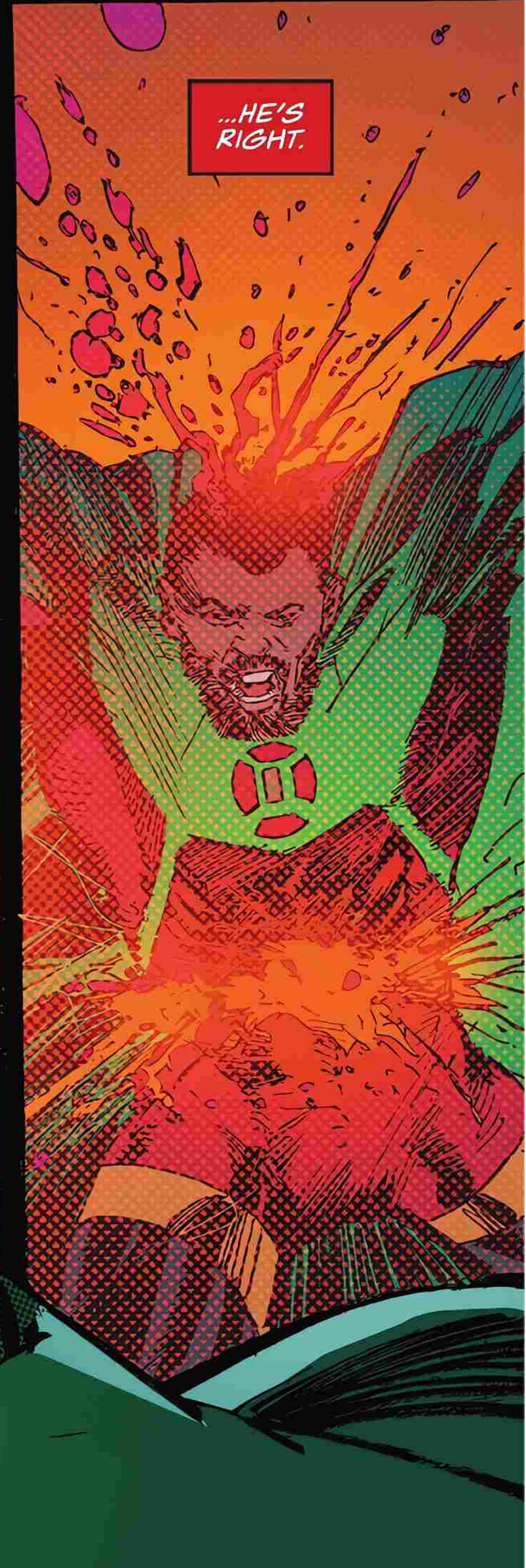
I CONSIDER
EVERY POSSIBLE
OUTCOME OF THIS
BATTLE, KNOWING
WHAT I NOW KNOW
ABOUT CURTIS
METCALF.

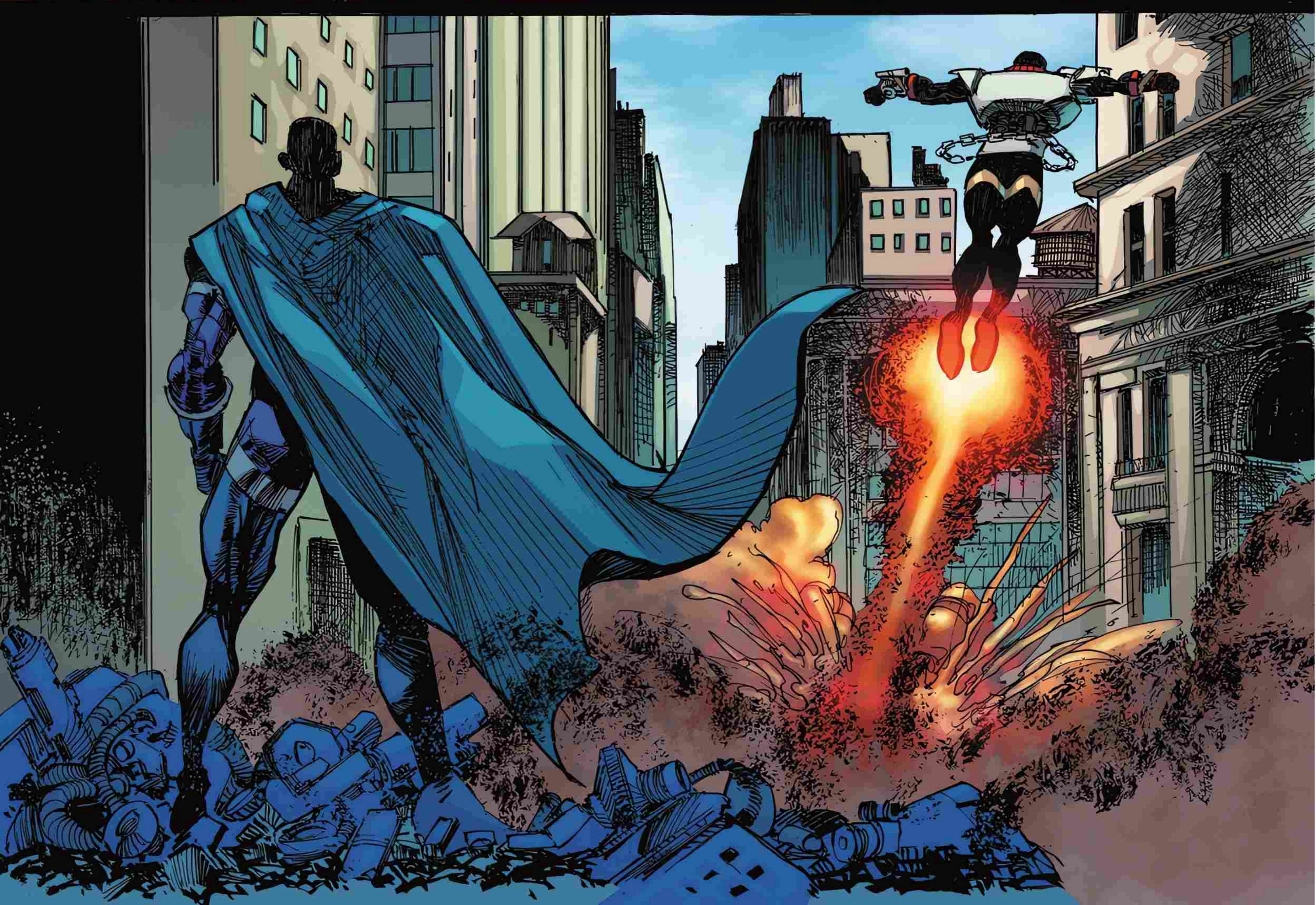
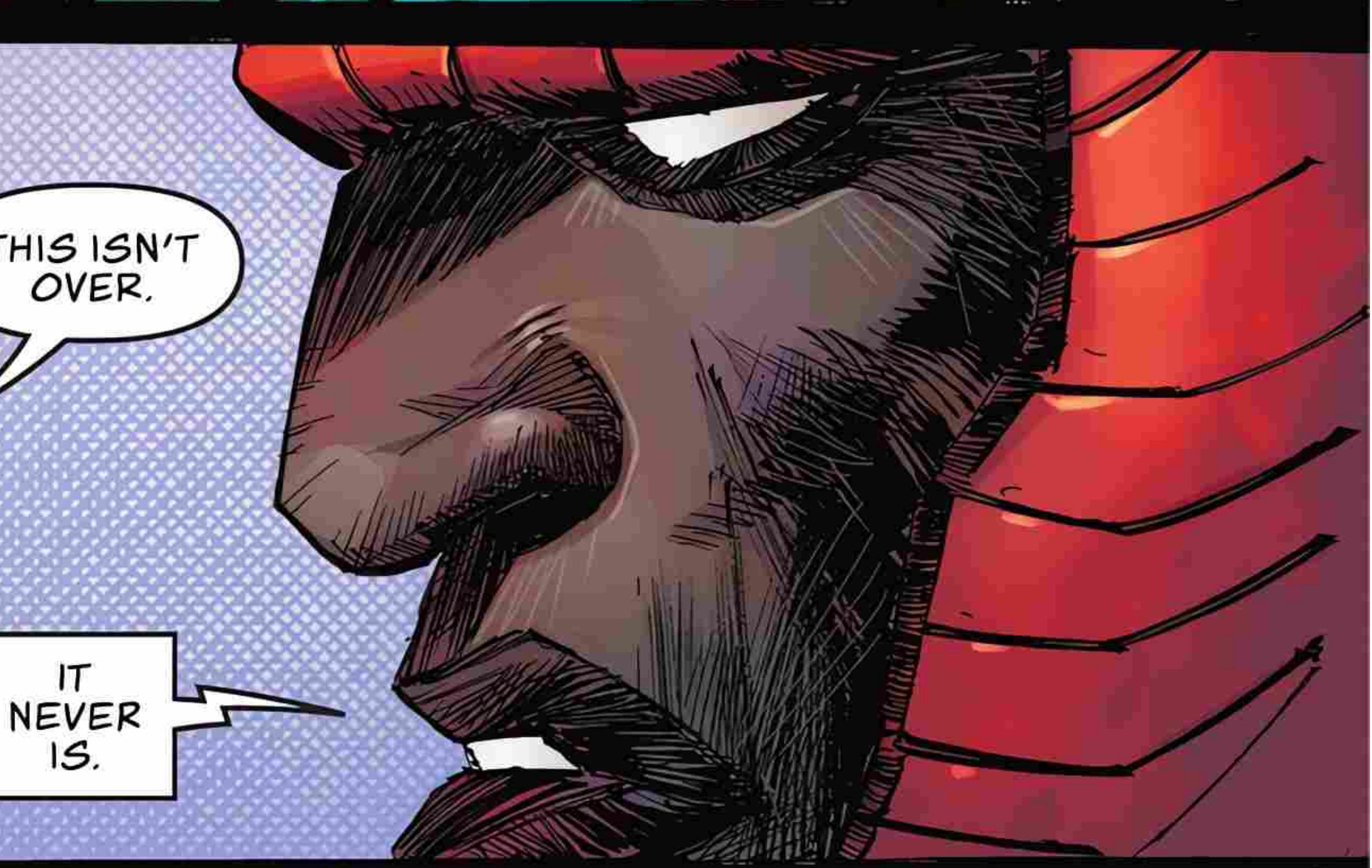


AND AS
SHOCKING
AS IT IS TO
ADMIT IT...



...HE'S
RIGHT.





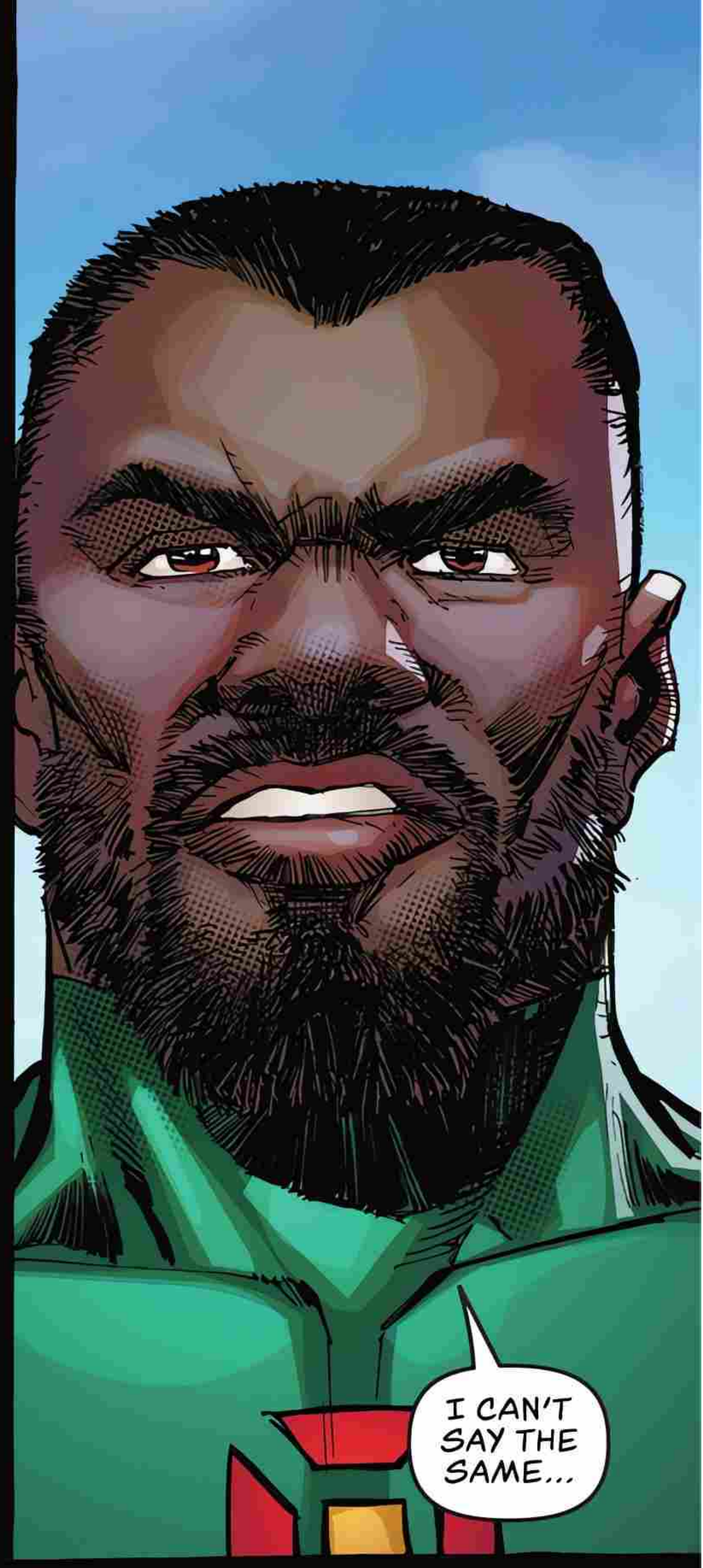


SWITZERLAND.

XIOMARA,
A WORD
PLEASE...



HAPPY TO
SEE YOU WERE
VICTORIOUS.



I CAN'T
SAY THE
SAME...



WAIT
HERE.



DANG!
I WANNA
HEAR!

CAN YOU
SHRINK
US?





FROM THE MOMENT YOU ENTERED RAQUEL'S LIFE, THIS WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG...WASN'T IT? TO **STEAL** HER FROM ME.

LAST TIME I CHECKED, SHE'S NOT SOME **THING** IN YOUR POSSESSION. I'VE **ALWAYS** BEEN UP FRONT WITH YOU ABOUT HOW SPECIAL I THINK SHE IS.



BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABOUT THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THE LOVE CORPS. LIKE TAKING OVER THIS SCHOOL...IT'S ALL A STRATEGY FOR RECRUITMENT, RIGHT?



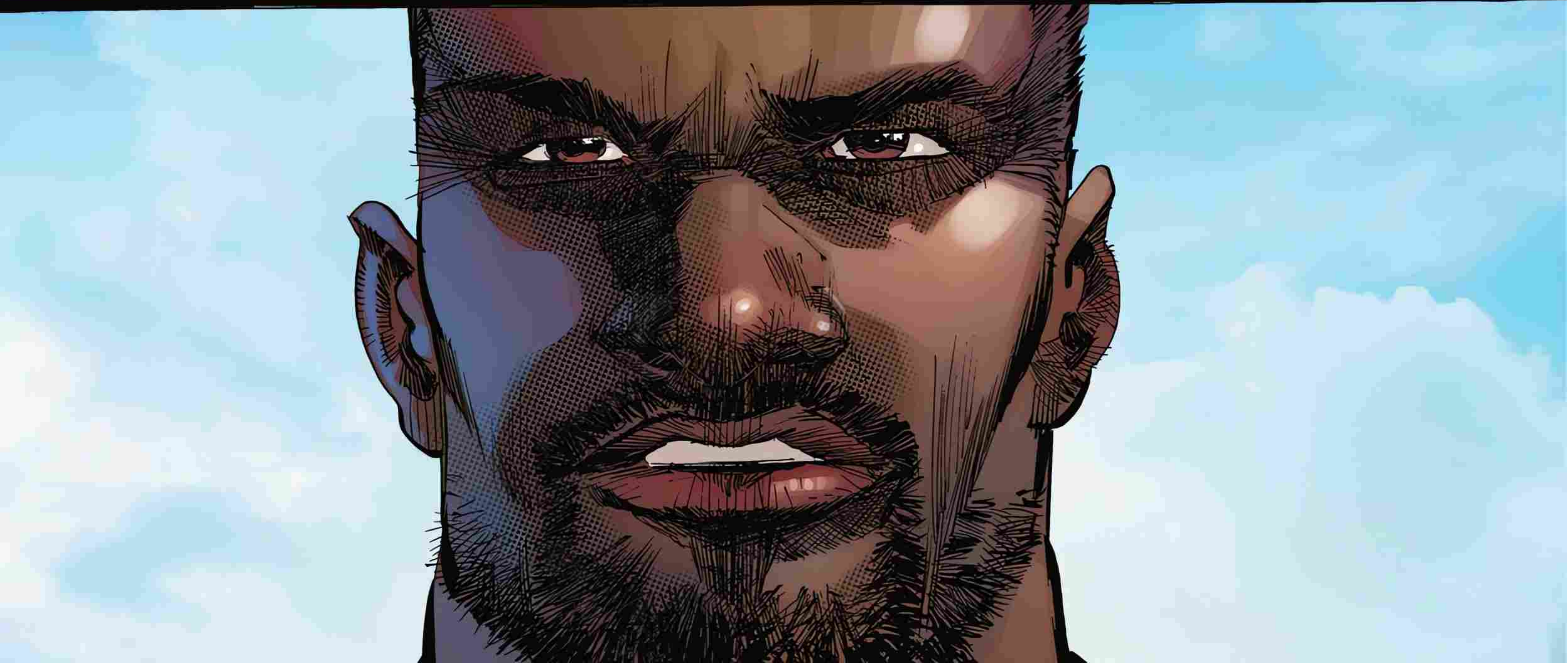
HAVE YOU EXPLAINED TO HER WHO YOU **REALLY** ARE?

UNTIL YOU DO, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SHADY, SHADOWY ORGANIZATION TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY.



WE'RE DONE, XIOMARA.

HMPH. WE WERE A THING? THAT'S NEWS TO ME...





THAT'S ENOUGH!
STOP FIGHTING
OVER ME!



ROCKET,
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THEY'VE TOLD
YOU, OR WHAT LIES
THEY'VE SPREAD,
BUT WHATEVER IT IS,
I TRUST YOU WILL
STILL LEAVE
WITH ME?



I'M SORRY,
AUGUSTUS...
BUT I'M
STAYING WITH
THEM.

WHY
COULDN'T
YOU JUST
LISTEN
TO ME...



WHEN YOU WANTED TO STOP THE
DRUG TRADE, I LISTENED TO YOU,
DID I NOT? I WEAR THIS CAPE
AND PARADE AROUND THE
CITY BECAUSE OF YOU.

WE HAVE **ONE**
DISAGREEMENT
ABOUT YOU GOING
TO A SCHOOL,
AND THIS IS THE
RESULT?

IT'S NOT
JUST ABOUT
THE SCHOOL...IT'S
ABOUT YOU ACTING
LIKE YOU'RE MY
FATHER WHEN
YOU'RE NOT.



BUT
RAQUEL...THAT
ONLY HAPPENS
BECAUSE OF THE
LOVE I HAVE
FOR YOU.



I
ONLY HAVE
ONE FATHER,
AUGUSTUS.
AND IT'S
NOT YOU.

UNTIL
YOU CAN
SEE ME AS
AN EQUAL...
WE...



...ARE
DONE.

ALVA INDUSTRIES LABORATORY.



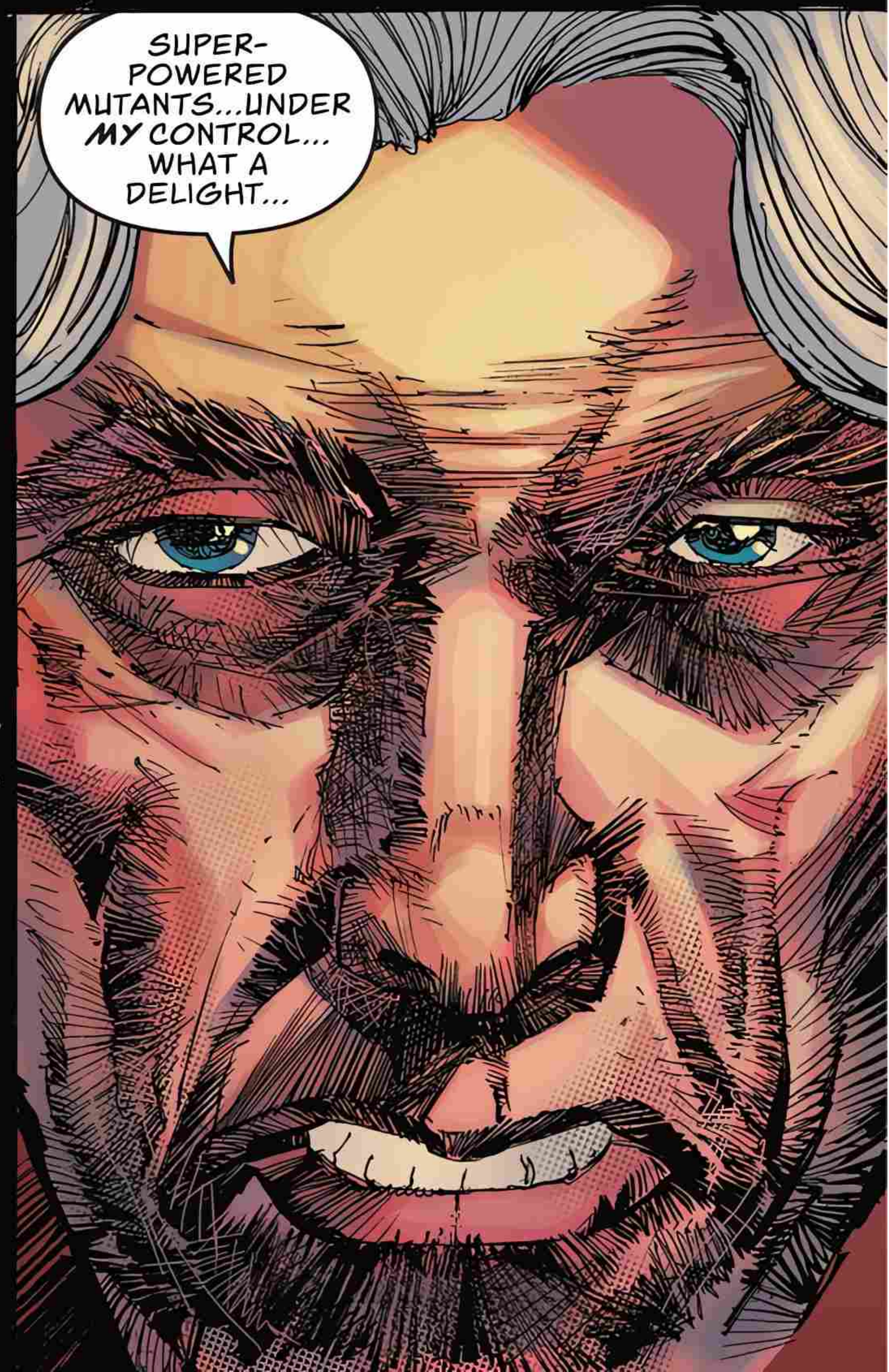
ARE WE
READY TO
BEGIN?



YES,
SIR. CLONING
PREPARATION
HAS BEEN
COMPLETED.

AND THE...
IMPROVEMENTS?

Q JUICE
READY FOR
INJECTION
AS WELL.



SUPER-
POWERED
MUTANTS...UNDER
MY CONTROL...
WHAT A
DELIGHT...

SHADOWSPIRE.

WHAT I FEARED WAS COMING. IS FINALLY HERE.

THREATS TO THIS WORLD GROW BY THE SECOND, AND INFIGHTING DESTROYS THE RELATIONSHIPS OF THOSE WHO PROTECT IT.

TO PREVENT ALL BEING LOST, DRASTIC MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN. WITH ONLY ONE WAY LEFT TO WIN...

...THE SHADOW CABINET... MUST BE REBORN...



TO BE CONTINUED...

ICON VS. HARDWARE



ROUND FIVE

Written by
REGINALD HUDLIN and LEON CHILLS

Pencils by
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(pages 1-9)
DENYS COWAN
(pages 10-28)

Inks by
YASMÍN FLORES MONTAÑEZ
(pages 1-9)
JOHN STANISCI
(pages 10-28)

Colors by
CHRISTOPHER SOTOMAYOR

Letters by
ANDWORLD DESIGN

Cover by
RAHZZAH

Variant Cover by
JAY HERO

'30s Variant Cover by
DEMETRIUS DAWKINS

Editors
MARQUIS DRAPER and CHRIS CONROY

REGINALD HUDLIN and DENYS COWAN
Producers, Milestone Media

ICON and HARDWARE created by
DWAYNE McDUFFIE, DEREK T. DINGLE,
DENYS COWAN, and MICHAEL DAVIS

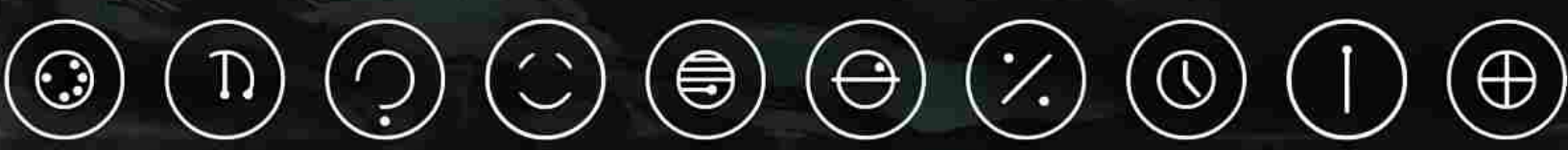
In memory of John Floyd

WALTER BROUGHT HIS FRIENDS TOGETHER
AND ASKED A SIMPLE QUESTION:

“HOW DO YOU THINK THE WORLD WILL END?”

NO ONE WAS READY FOR HIS ANSWER.

THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE



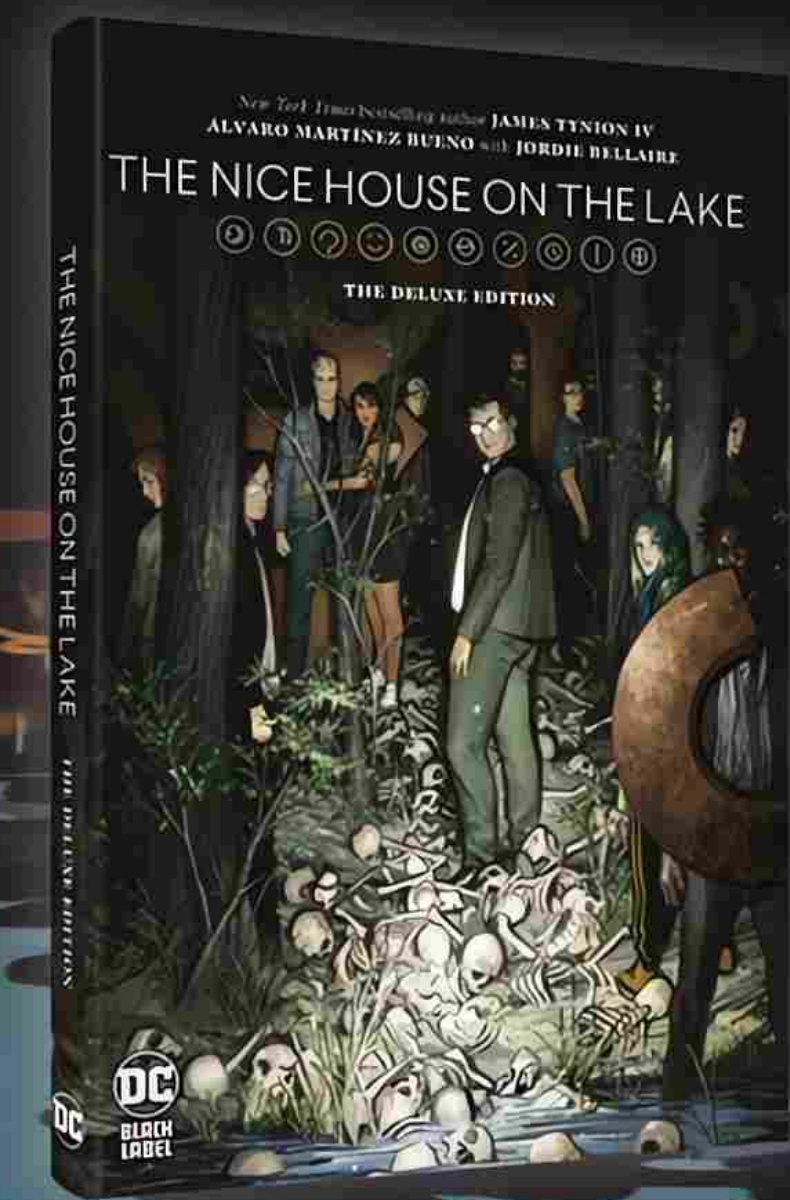
The Deluxe Edition

“ONE OF THE BEST HORROR COMICS
IN YEARS AND MAYBE EVEN EVER.” —AIPT



Written by
James Tynion IV

Art by
Álvaro Martínez Bueno



ON SALE NOW!

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BATMAN OFF-WORLD

INTERVIEW WITH JASON AARON

The blockbuster creative team of writer Jason Aaron and artist Doug Mahnke unite for *Batman: Off-World*, a seven-issue epic sending Batman toward the stars. DC Nation sat down with Aaron to help uncover the burning secrets behind this series.

Batman has historically been a very grounded character, and this story sends him into deep space. What was it like taking the Dark Knight so out of his element?

Taking Batman out of his element is one of the most fun parts of this story. This is a young Batman and he's only just started to get a handle on his mission in Gotham. Then something otherworldly happens that shows Bruce how little he really knows about the universe as a whole. Now he's taking on a challenge unlike anything he's faced before.



As this story begins we find Batman aboard a spacecraft called the *War Storm*. What is this ship and who are some of the characters already on it?

The *War Storm* is a massive spaceship that acts as a mercenary training school. It goes from world to world, abducting aliens and forcing them to train as hired soldiers. Once Batman finds himself there, he meets up with Lone of Tamaran, who's a fiery stormchaser, which is like a bounty hunter in this particular sector of space, the Slag Galaxy.



What has it been like collaborating with legendary artist Doug Mahnke?

It's a total dream come true. For years now, Doug has been at the top of my "Have to Work With" list for artists. He's been absolutely nailing it on this project from page one. No surprise, but Doug draws the best-looking horde of alien killers you could ever imagine.



You've penned so many iconic runs on different superheroes—what are you specifically bringing to Batman that readers haven't seen before?

I love writing a young Batman thrown into a corner of the DCU that's wholly new to him. As a reader, it was really DC that first made me a comics fan as a kid. This project is very much an ode to some of those DC series that hooked me, like *The New Teen Titans*, *Atari Force*, and *The Dark Knight Returns*.

After many years of writing comics at other publishers, what has it been like to return to DC?

It feels great. It's a return in that Vertigo gave me one of my first big breaks in comics several years ago. But to me this *really* feels like my DC debut. You better believe that *Batman: Off-World* is just the first of many new DC projects that I'm excited to bring to life.



DON'T MISS BATMAN: OFF-WORLD #1, ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

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